

**SPECIAL
REPORT**

**Arthur Kent on the tangled plans for post-war Afghanistan
Fortress North America: how our world will change**

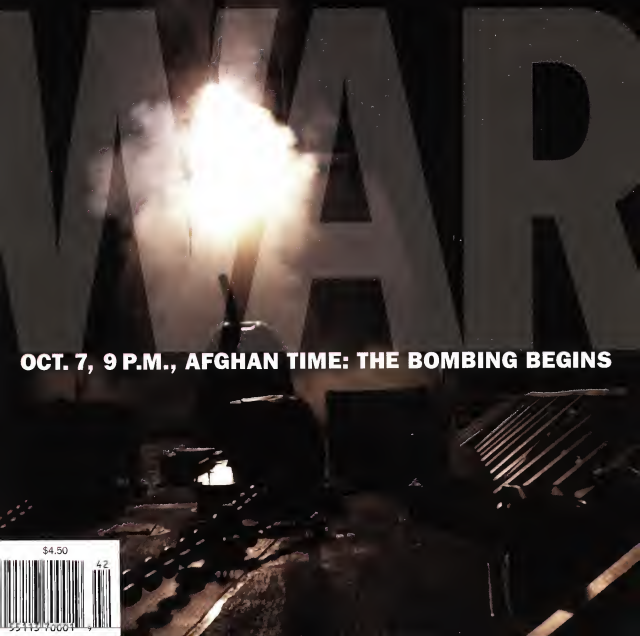
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OCT. 7, 9 P.M., AFGHAN TIME: THE BOMBING BEGINS

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THE BOMBING BEGINS

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your guess as to my response, if any? We

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From the

Editor

War in the new world disorder

This is the way the world as we knew it ends—with a series of bangs, not a whimper. Although some form of escalation has been inevitable since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, it still came as a shock when the news shattered the calm of a Thanksgiving weekend Sunday. The previous Friday, as many Canadians were heading to the cottage for one last drive, or simply planning life with three days off, Canadian government officials were being told to prepare our military for coming action. On Saturday, John Chretien called to Defence Minister Art Eggleton and senior Canadian military officials, advising them of commitments he had made on the country's behalf at that event. On Sunday at 11:45 a.m., Chretien spoke by telephone with George W. Bush, and learned that joint action by America and Great Britain against the Taliban was about to begin. A couple of hours later, Bush read the news public in an address from the White House—even as action was already underway.

And so it begins—an international military campaign in which the enemy is everywhere, but nowhere specific. In the last two world wars, people talked about "the front"—meaning the place where battles took place and lives were lost—and its peaceful counterpart, "the home front," the place soldiers left behind when they went off to fight, and the place they returned to, if lucky. This time, Americans—as well as Britons and, perhaps, people in countries such as Canada and Australia that have also offered military help—have to get used to the idea that in a war on terror, the battlefield is all around, and there is no expiry date on assault. Ponder to the stake, senior American intelligence sources had advised the White House that any military response to the Sept. 11 attacks would have a "100 per cent likelihood" of

prompting further terrorist action.

War is inevitably declared in stark, black-and-white terms, but fought under conditions that are much more grey. The immediate reflex at the outset is to do whatever it takes to end wars as quickly as possible—but things seldom work out so simply. Bush repeatedly says that this is a battle against terrorism and not a war on Islam—but many people in predominantly Muslim countries don't believe that. So the already large gap between such countries and the still largely Christian nations of the West is about to become a great divide.

In specific terms, riddling Afghanistan of the Taliban is only a beginning, not an end: what comes next will matter just as much, and be watched with equal interest. As Contributing Editor Arthur Kuru writes in his analysis beginning on page 28, there are signs that Washington and its allies are split as their approach to handling post-Taliban Afghanistan. That, in turn, affects the way the present campaign is waged.

Meanwhile, Canadians face a wrenching internal debate now exacerbated by the military strikes. In short order, we have to decide if we want a place in a newly border-conscious Fortress North America. That debate, along with a report on the weekend's actions, form the focus of our Special Report. What we do about sovereignty and border security—and what Washington let us do—will affect us in ways we can barely imagine. The countries of a now sharply divided world are, in other words, more inter-linked than ever.

Jeff Uhlir

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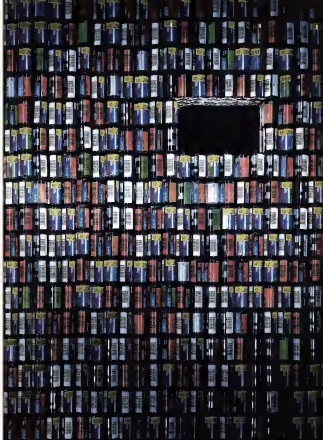
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Decision time

The idea that the terrorist attack on America was an attack on us as a whole should never be forgotten. If the world does not prepare for this confrontation, then it will be the beginning of the end of a world where decent people can live decent lives ("America ready: Are the rest of us?" Special Report, Oct. 1). We have reached two paths, one leading to the sunlight, the other dragging us back to the primitive darkness.

Doogan Corbett, Orono



Mail, Oct. 1) My favourite, though, had to be Fred Forth. He claims that a terrorist act apparently masterminded by a son of a hyper-capitalist family whose wealth was generated in a despot, U.S.-protected puppet-dictatorship is a manifestation of anti-capitalism. He also calls for a prolonged military attack on the countries that harbour Islamic terrorism. When does he think all of the cruise missiles launched in the past 10 years have been targeted, "Well Success? God

bless the capitalism that drove the colonization and rape of Africa, the subjugation of the natives of North America and gave us the First World War?"

John Gregory Elliott, Calgary

Food: Food speaks of altruism, but clearly has no idea what he is talking about. Altruism is the quality of unselfish concern for the welfare of others. Altruism is the principle that so many police and firefighters demonstrated that day going into the World Trade Center to rescue those trapped. It was certainly not the principle terrorists follow, for they have no concern for the lives or well-being of others.

Wade Andrew McLeod, Toronto, B.C.

I was disturbed by one of the letters in the Oct. 1 edition which suggested that we need to "put this tragedy into perspective," claiming that since many more people die in Third World countries every year, the fact that people express more outrage over the horrific events of Sept. 11 indicates something deficient in Americans and Canadians. I would like to suggest that North Americans do feel for the plight of people in those countries. Moreover, the 5,000 plus people who died in America due to those terrorist attacks were murdered. They did not die because of famine, flood or overpopulation. They died because they were successful Americans and there's nothing Osama bin Laden hates more than that. Other than freedom.

Collette Sakran, New Westminster, B.C.

A job well done

I don't see the big deal in having the hearse in a big city like Vancouver with a population of close to two million people handling 34 of the plane loads of people diverted to Canadian airports on Sept. 11 ("Helping hands on Canada's West Coast," Special Report, Sept. 24). Look at the province of Newfoundland (population 600,000), where 78 of the 240 diverted planes landed. The town of Gander (population 10,000) had 36 planes and 6,600 passengers. People opened their homes and donated time and resources to help these travellers, and then gladly went out of their way to give personal guided tours. Small-town Canada was where the real action was.

Kath Winslow, St. John's, Nfld.

Letter writer Dorothy McCabe states that the terrorist attacks were due to the United States' "foreign policies and [so] assumes that have been caused as a result of inaction." Excuse me? What inaction? If this is due to U.S. action in the Persian Gulf, that would probably be in defence of Saudi Arabia and the liberation of Kuwait from a dictatorship that had an extensive biological, chemical and nuclear warfare program. As disastrous as the regimes in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia may be, they're far better than the one in Iraq. Or perhaps it is U.S. support for Israel that she questions. Would she be so bold as to suggest that the Holocaust occurred because of the actions of European Jews? Even though Israeli actions are to be condemned, should it be surprising that the U.S. prefers to support the democracy in this area? The

APOLOGY

An article titled "The price paid for divorce" in the Sept. 17, 2001, issue made reference to Mr. Douglas Peterson. *Maclean's* assumes any suggestion that Mr. Peterson provides inadequate support for his children or that his children are living in poverty. *Maclean's* apologizes to Mr. Peterson and his children for any harm or embarrassment caused to them by the article.

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Readers on readers

It was very difficult to choose which of the letters on the subject of the terrorist attacks was the odious ("How should we feel?" The

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The Mail

United States was attacked because many people who yearn to be free look to it for inspiration and support. The terrorists want their people to remain enslaved to their perverted fundamentalism.

Rebekh Tenney, Princeton, Ont.

Reflection, not bombing

Arthur Kent's measured and thoughtful approach to the recent tragedies in his essay "Season of change" (Special Report, Oct. 1) is very welcome indeed. The sub-head is a challenge to us all: "Shocked out of its sense of spiritual isolation, America wants revenge. But is anyone thinking of how to win the battle for global hearts and minds?" It is a time for reflection, not the bombing of innocent people. Children in the schoolyard are taught that two wrongs don't make a right. That lesson is needed on a worldwide scale.

Shelia Innes, Calgary, Ont.

"Season of change" by Arthur Kent was excellent. The battle for the hearts and minds of the global village has begun. President George W. Bush said that, with the stroke of a pen, he nullified the economic shadow of the flow of funds in the terrorism. Let us hope this he will wield the pen more than the sword, in the world of ocean that has descended upon our world. Winston Churchill, no stranger to war and peace, prophesied that the empire of the future would be the empire of the sword. The future is now.

G. James Thomas, Calgary, Ont.

Finally, we hear from a legitimate reporter who has the courage to ask the question, "Why did it happen?" Arthur Kent's essay illustrates why history studies are so crucially important to our school curriculum. In understanding the present, we must have knowledge of the past.

Henry Snelgrove, Seattle, B.C.

I believe that Canada's greatest contribution at this moment is a couch of reality. For the first time ever, American society is beginning to understand itself and reach out to celebrate its diversity. Canada has gone through the usual pangs and still is grappling with the issues, whether economic, social, public policy or simply human interaction. Canada must cele-



The USS Theodore Roosevelt leaves port in Norfolk, Va., after "The day the war began"

brate its new self and help the U.S. recognize its new self and, hopefully, find a place in the world for social leadership.

Freddie Harbin Lewis, Lincoln, Neb.

Kudos to Arthur Kent. It takes courage to think outside the mass emotional maelstrom of outcry. But I can't help questioning the role of religion in all the world's conflicts. Religion evolved from good intentions, but has been bastardized from the get-go into a mass consciousness of judgment and fear. Perhaps that fact more than any other has been made clear to me through this conflict.

Bala Sankaran, London, Ont.

Foes and friends

Two flaws marred Peter C. Newman's otherwise excellent column "The day the war began" (Sept. 24). Newman agreed with President Bush in naming as "cowards" the terrorists who attacked the U.S. on Sept. 11. Were the Japanese kamikaze pilots of the Second World War cowards? Nobody and so at the time, or since. Call the terrorists who attacked New York City and Washington any adjectives you choose, except cowardly. Indeed, their financial courage, plus their ability to secretly plan, co-ordinate and execute a complex operation, proves them to be in extremely formidable file. These are more where they came from, so let's not underestimate them. Newman also called Canada "the most dependable ally of the United

States." It's a long time since Canada has been that, if it ever was. Certainly Canada was a wartime ally during the long prime ministership of Pierre Trudeau. The oldest "most dependable ally" was confirmed within a few days of the attack. It belongs to Bretton, which sent a modern Royal Navy task force convinced to join American naval and air forces.

Robert Nelson, Weyburn, N.B.

Peter C. Newman's assertion that our bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki was "where Americans sought revenge" for Pearl Harbor opens a mountain of historical evidence. There is every reason to believe a conventional invasion of Japan would have been a bloodbath, resulting in more civilian and military casualties than at Hiroshima and Nagasaki combined. Furthermore, I disagree with his characterization of the new conflict with terrorism as a "Third World War" (it may be closer to a "Second Cold War"). While we will certainly see some military action against the Taliban in Afghanistan, the bulk of the guerrilla war will be away from the TV camera, involving intelligence and communications operations, law-enforcement operations against terrorist cells and money-laundering, and diplomatic pressure. If victory is ever achieved, we may never know it. Does that sound like the successor to the Second World War?

Michael J. Gallagher, Ontario, N.Y.

For more letters, visit www.cbc.ca/letters

Overture

Edited by Sherida Daniel with Amy Cameron

Over and Under Achievers

The week of bogus borders

• **The West Wing:** White House TV airs another post-race episode to air its message of "unity" could have come from inspired Canadian leader. What it had.

• **The West Wing:** Same episode has been making a geographically impossible entry from Ontario to Vermont, the Quebec boys. Can it stop 'em if you can't find the border?

• **Twelve o'clock:** A police revealed as only guard at U.S. border points arrested after 30 p.m. Crossing open. Officers to condemn the U.S. security will double number of cases on the Canadian side.

• **Billie and Karen:** Holy books are born again best-sellers. For heaven's sake, read them carefully.

It's the thought that counts

On Sept. 25, in the wake of the recent tragedy, more than 60 selfless volunteers from Ontario and Alberta responded to New York City's early call for volunteers. A group including welders, construction and general contractors met in Toronto, identified two donated Greyhound buses and made the way to Ground Zero followed closely by a Canadian-owned dump truck and a tractor-trailer with a flatbed carrying a sponser. Upon arrival, they were told that a roadblock had been placed on volunteers due to increased security despite their disappointment, most members of the group felt the trip was not in vain. "I'm glad that we went down," says **Way Blomstedt**, a heavy machine operator from Wainfleet, Ont. "Even though we couldn't help that much, our contribution was to show support."

New York embraced those would be helpers. They stayed free of charge in four-star hotels and their meals were on the house. New York's **George Steinbrenner** happened to be at their hotel restaurant one night and offered to pick up their entire meal bill, thanking them and over the hotel manager informed saying that already been taken care



Helpful Canadian workers experience New York-style hospitality

of Police and firefighters tried to find work for the Canadians—the city, it seemed, had things under control. The hosts said the workers could stay as long as they liked, but they refused. "I don't want to break up," said heavy equipment driver **Muung Ndlovu**, of Milton, Ont. "We came here to do a job. They don't need us, it's time to go home."



For the ladies' night, footballer's account of their journey, see [www.fox.com](#)

Oops, I'm off the top 10

There are few better barometers of public curiosity than Internet search engines. Between Sept. 15 and 22 million daily users of **Google** were searching for electronic game shows. TV shows, sports teams and pop singers. Post-mortem attacks,

the who is a man without place. The Top 10 Google searches week ending Sept. 15, including order **Dragon Ball Z** game show. **Big Brother** reality TV show, the NFL, **MySpace** music swap site, **Ben Affleck** who died in a plane

crash on Aug. 25, **Drilling Spreads** review, **Twelve o'clock**, **Internet** **Review Service**.

The Top 10 Google searches.

were ending Sept. 20. **West Coast Center**, **Oscar** **in** **Ladies**, **Dragon Ball Z**, ancient prophet of doom **Nezha**, **American** **flag**, **Halverson** **grooming**, **MySpace** **Alphabetical**, **columns** for **Yellow**.

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Over to You John Maclean

My toxic playground

When I was young, I thought that I was invincible. Back then, a maddy creek was just a maddy creek. No one ever told us to stay away from it. No one ever told us not to drink the water from the natural spring fountain half a mile away. But now I am 33 years old and I have thyroid cancer. Many of the people I played with as a child have died and many more are very sick. I came from Sydney, N.S., but like so many others from Cape Breton, I moved to Alberta for work and what I hoped would be a better life for my kids. I am married to a lovely woman and I have two great children who, for some reason, think I am the best dad in the world. But my world has changed.

Cape Breton is famous for lots of things and infamous for one—the Sydney tar ponds. The area, home to the Sydney Steel Corp., a century-old dump and Maggin Creek, is a wasteland of toxic materials. The "ponds" are, in fact, a tidal estuary at the mouth of the creek. It is known that the cancer rate is high in this area, but people haven't looked at the effects that spill past the coast. How many kids have lost parents at very young ages? How many marriages have come apart? How many people have turned to alcohol and drugs to deal with loss and grief? Most of the men in my family died by the age of 45. Their wives are 12 years. If God is willing, I'll have more. Every day, I read the *Cape Breton Post* online, and every day I see that someone else I used to know has died. Mothers, fathers, aunts, uncles, sisters and brothers have all died young from different diseases. But I believe that if you looked closely the causes are all linked to where they lived and played.

It seems as if all of us who spent our younger days on a ball-field in Whitney Pier are now hiding down cancer. I can't prove that my childhood friends are what caused my illness, but many doctors have said that to get my type of thyroid cancer you have to be exposed to extreme amounts of radiation. At first, I thought that meant it was from regular X-rays. I was in a lot of car accidents and had my share of bicycle and snowboard spills growing up. I also enjoyed myself playing football. But after some research, I found out that it's people who had X-ray treatments to their head and neck for things like acne



John Maclean

PCBs found in the sludge. The toxic levels were too high for the system to burn. And then we were kicking up dirt, moving the sludge, and had never been told of the danger, or the gas that could be stirred up from our work. We had dust masks and safety glasses, but I was never told to wear a gas mask. And why would I think to do it on my own? The sun was home to me, I always assumed it was safe. When I was a kid, I played in the fields next to the plant and in that creek. But now, I have just gone through my first radioactive iodine treatment and I am wearing rubber gloves to type this out.

I am not a doctor and I can't scientifically prove my theory—but in the middle of this battle with cancer, I had to write it down. Soil near my old neighbourhood friend arena levels up to 60 times the acceptable limit, as well as high levels of lead and benzene. And this summer, Health Canada

studied the effects of contamination on the people who still live there, but it hasn't released any results. There are more problems with the tar ponds than just the ugly location, the smell and how to clean them up. There are families who have been lost, loved ones gone too soon. There are the people who left their homes for searching jobs only to find that long before they were able to start families or even a living, their lives were irreversibly altered by disease. I am pretty sure it started on those summer days when we went kids, invincible—playing, laughing, having around in the creek and drinking water from that fountain.

John Maclean is a stay-at-home dad in Edmonton.

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Overture Passages

Athlete: They have been called selfish players at times, but there is no doubting the individual greatness of **Barry Bonds** (right) and **Mickey Henderson**. Bonds, 37, an outfielder with the San Francisco Giants, topped **Mark McGwire's** single-season record for home runs by swatting his 71st, 72nd and 73rd round-trippers on the last weekend of the season. Henderson, 42, of the San Diego Padres, overtook the legendary **Ty Cobb** for the most runs scored in Major League Baseball history. The flamboyant Henderson broke the 73-year-old mark of 2,245 runs scored in dramatic fashion—with a solo home run.



The subsequent ruling said Collins's column "posed less to harm," and imposed a \$2,000 fine on writer and newspaper Collins, who moved to Canada in 1952 and got a job in the *Calgary Herald*, later worked in radio, on CBC TV and for various newspapers. He died in a North Vancouver hospital, after experiencing abdominal pain. He was 81.

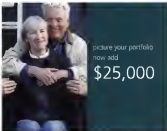
Died: When former South Vietnamese president **Nguyen Van Thieu** was a young man, he joined the national liberation movement—led by **Ho Chi Minh**, who later became president of North Vietnam. Thieu eventually became disillusioned, switched sides and started his career as a brilliant but cautious combat officer. Quickly rising through the South Vietnamese ranks, Thieu took the office of chief of staff in 1965, the same year U.S. president **Lyndon Johnson** sent 100,000 troops to Vietnam. Two years later, Thieu was elected president. After the fall of his capital city, Saigon, to the North Vietnamese Communists in 1975, he lived in exile in London, and then moved to Fozzons, Mass. Thieu, 78, died via Boston hospital, after collapsing at home.

Died: **David Collins** was a British Second World War hero who escaped 10 Nazi prison camps, and after the war became an air reporter. But Collins's accomplishments were overshadowed in 1999, when he became the first person to be found guilty of violating British Columbia's anti-hate legislation. After writing a series of anti-Semitic columns penned in the *North Shore News*—in which he attacked the prosecution of a Holocaust denier and referred to the film *Schindler's List* as "Sander's List"—Collins was challenged in front of the B. C. Human Rights Tribunal by Jewish businessman **Harry Abramson**.

played for eight NHL teams (including Pittsburgh, Los Angeles and Detroit). His last stint was with the Boston Bruins, who released him in December, 2000. Coffey, 40, is the leading career playoff scorer among defencemen.

Nominated: Authors **Jane Ungers** (*The Snow Garden*), **Richard D. Wright** (*Close Call*) and **Sandra Bisdell** (*The Bachelors*) are three of the six nominees for this year's Giller Prize. The remaining three are all first-time novelists—St. John's, Nfld.-based **Michael Crummey** for *River Thieves*, about the Beothuk in Newfoundland; Toronto playwright **Michael Redhill** for *Martin Shone*, about a university student who falls in love with a local artist; and **Timothy Taylor** for *Stanley Poole*, about a Vancouver chef's encounter in a decades-old murder mystery. The \$25,000 Canadian fiction prize will be awarded on Nov. 6.

Married: At a private mountaintop estate in Calabasas, Calif., singer-singer **Jennifer Lopez** married dancer **Cris Judd**. The couple, both 32, met while shooting Lopez's *Jive Denz* *Get a Thing* video and began dating right after her breakup with **Sean (Puffy) Combs** earlier this year. One hundred and twenty guests attended the reception, which was hosted by famous Hollywood chef **Wolfgang Puck**. The newlyweds honeymooned in Milan. Judd first married to Maria waiter **Ojani Nas** ended in divorce in 1998.



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Overture The Week That Was

Upset in the separatist heartland

Betting, 100 isn't good if you're the Parti Québécois contesting two by-elections in traditional PQ strongholds. Premier Bernard Landry's party held on to two ridings on Oct. 1—about by a mere 54-vote margin in one—outdrawing a majority of 72 seats in the 335-seat national assembly. But two by-elections went to Jean Charest's Liberals, including, shockingly, the riding of Jacques, which had been held by former leader Jacques Duchesneau. There were many reasons blamed for the losses: unpopular municipal mergers, hospital closing, the economic



diverting. But some observers also said the election setbacks were a result of Landry's scolding separatist militants at a time when polls show Quebecers are tired of the old debate—and preferring an attachment to Canada in the increasingly turbulent general elections of Sept. 15. Landry acknowledged as much when, after the by-elections, he said the PQ would, for the moment, put sovereignty on the back burner. "My constituents are well-informed," said the premier, who is a recent alibi in The New York Times expressing his sympathy over the



Charest with Jacquesville victor Françoise Gaudet; Landry (right)

dereliction of the World Trade Center signed himself as the "Prime Minister of Quebec." But, Landry continued,

"There is a time for everything, and at this moment my duty is to devote my energy to face the economic situation."

Mandatory labels?

Health Minister Allan Rock and all genetically modified foods imported or produced in Canada should carry mandatory labelling. This statement contradicts the position of the departments of industry, international trade and agriculture, as well as a national task force that recommended in August that Ottawa allow voluntary labelling for foods that have had their genetic makeup altered. But Rock and Canada should follow the European example and impose mandatory regulations. "It's about time the government caught up to the will of Canadians to be reasonably informed about what they are putting in their bodies," he added. While those in the biotechnology industry say genetically modified foods are safe, critics contend they pose significant health and environmental risks.

Thousands of judges

In annual elections, the people of Rwanda elected 260,000 judges to local courts.

Nearly 120,000 Hutus remain in jail over their involvement in the 1994 massacre of almost 300,000 members of a rival tribe, the Tutsi. Many Hutus could die in jail waiting for a trial, but the decision of the new judges, who dispense traditional *gacaca* justice based on confession and apology, could speed their cases and promote national reconciliation.

Pillaging the winners

Researchers sifting through the files of former East German

secret police found evidence that agents dug up a mass grave of Holocaust victims in 1971 and stole the gold from the victims' teeth. Researcher Andreas Wiegert and the police took about a kilogram of gold, which has yet to be recovered. The exhumed bodies are still missing.

Bucks for the airlines

An Canada asked for billions but got just millions. Transport Minister David Colquhoun announced a \$160-million package to compensate

Canada airlines for losses resulting from the closure of the country's airspace following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. As the nation's dominant carrier, Air Canada will get about \$160 million. The airline, which has announced 12,500 layoffs since last December, says it will accept the money in "partial compensation" for post-Sept. 11 losses.

Elephant march

In the biggest elephant relocation program ever attempted, South Africa will transfer 1,000



Hookers in 7th-floor nightclub—and tax breaks, too

RED-LIGHT REVOLT

Dutch prostitutes, vowing to fight for better pay and working conditions, plan to set up the world's first trade union for hookers. Those working in the Netherlands' 3,000 brothels earn an average about \$7 an hour, and the organizing campaign, led by the Trade Union (VVD Trade), hopes not only to increase their pay but also to lobby for tax breaks for sex-related expenses, such as condoms and clothes.



Their trunks are all packed

of the giant animals from Kruger National Park to neighbouring Mozambique. Former South African president Nelson Mandela opened a gate on the border during a ceremony on Oct. 4 when the first batch of elephants moved to their new home.

Upperwash affidavits

Ontario's information and privacy commission ordered Premier Mike Harris to sign an affidavit regarding any meetings he had with police and cabinet ministers on Sept. 6, 1995. This is the day senior prosecutor Dudley George was shot and killed in a roadside with Ontario Provincial Police

at Apperwash Provincial Park. Harris has repeatedly denied he influenced police operations against rioters occupying the disputed park on Lake Huron. But in his order, information commissioner Tom Mitchinson said significant questions remain unanswered about any meetings that may have taken place. The order was a response to a freedom of information request from Liberal MPP Gerry Phillips. Also named in the order are two cabinet ministers, one former minister, three deputy ministers, five former and current police officers, and more than 30 others.

CPR returns

After a 30-year absence, Canadian Pacific Railway Co. is once again listed on the Toronto and New York stock exchanges. In 1983, CPR was the first foreign company listed on the NYSE. But 88 years later, following a reorganization, CPR was replaced by a new parent company, Canadian Pacific Ltd. Last week, the parent firm was broken

into five component businesses and CPR retained its old nickname: CP.

Cut: no royal films

Prince Edward will stop making films about the Royal Family. The decision comes after his television company, Ardent Productions, broke guidelines banning the media



Edward jacks away his camera

from the University of St. Andrews campus in Scotland where his nephew Prince William is a student. Edward's company was filming at the university during the young prince's first days at school. Though deny-

ing the videotapes include pictures of William, Edward handed the footage over to Buckingham Palace.

How low can it go?

For the ninth time this year, the U.S. Federal Reserve dropped its key interest rate, this time by a half a percentage point. It is now at 2.5 per cent, the lowest since 1962 when John F. Kennedy was president. With inflation at 2.7 per cent, it's an effective rate of return of below zero. The Bank of Canada meets on Oct. 23 to discuss possible rate changes.

Three new wise men

When Prime Minister Jean Chrétien appointed three new senators last week, he looked no further west than Quebec. Gérard A. Phelin, 67, a long-time union leader and natural industrial mechanical instructor, will represent Nova Scotia. Joseph A. Day, 56, a lawyer and engineer, will sit for New Brunswick, and Michel Buss, 67, a businessman from the Quebec region of Nicolet, will represent that province in the Senate.

Nortel just keeps on bleeding cash

Does anyone keep on coming for Nortel Networks Corp. Last week, the telecom giant said it will cut a further 10,500 positions around the world by the end of the month, bringing the total layoffs for the year to 45,500 employees—more than half of its workforce. The formerly high flying Burlington, Ont.-based company has been hard hit by the slowdown in the telecommunications equipment market. It lost a whopping \$18.4 billion (\$2.5) in the second quarter and predicts its third-quarter loss to be \$2.5-billion.

The company is not expected to break even until the first quarter of

next year. By then, Nortel's 45,500 employees will focus on its core specialties of optical and wireless networking. The firm has been diverting to new essential operations, including last week's sale of its Clarity e-commerce software company for \$200 million in cash—just two years ago, it bought the former Clarity Inc. for \$2.1 billion in stock. That 10-per-cent return is better than the state of Nortel's stock, which at week's end was worth just \$4.90 compared to its July 2000, high of \$124.50.

Last week, the company announced that its chief financial officer, 25-year company veteran Frank Duro,



Traders in New York City couldn't sell the stock fast enough

would replace John Roth as CEO in November. Reaction among analysts was mixed, with some viewing Duro as one of the architects of Nortel's

current financial crisis. Adding to the company's woes three bond-rating agencies downgraded Nortel's long-term debt.



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Playing the 'appeasement' card

Evoking one of the darkest periods in human history, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon appealed to the United States not to repeat the mistakes European leaders made in 1935 when they allowed Nazi Germany to invade Czechoslovakia in exchange for what turned out to be a short-lived peace. Advancing a new narrative in Jerusalem, the former army general said defense ministries—where Arab accusations of being a war criminal for his involvement in the 1952 massacre of Palestinians at the Sabra and Shatila refugee

camp in Beirut—unwaged Washington's determination to seek Arab support for an international coalition against terrorism. "Do not repeat the sacrifice of Czechoslovakia," he said. "Do not try to appease the Arabs at our expense. Israel will not be Czechoslovakia."

Sharon's subtext came in U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld's round Muslim capitals in the region looking for support for the American-led campaign against terrorism. A spokesman for George W. Bush immediately denounced the comments as "unacceptable." But Israeli



Ariel Sharon; Palestinian protesters burn truck tanks

leaders fear that Washington, their closest ally, is warning against Islamic nations and groups including Iran, Syria and the Palestinian Authority which, in the Israeli prime minister's view, sponsor terrorism.

On the day of Sharon's news conference, a Palestinian gunman

fired on a group of Jewish visitors in the West Bank city of Hebron. Earlier in the day, a Palestinian dressed as an Israeli soldier went on a shooting spree inside a bus station in the northern Israeli town of Afula, killing three people and injuring 14 others before being shot dead by police. Israel responded by canceling a ceasefire agreement it had struck with the Palestinian Authority late last month, and Israeli tanks and troops moved deep into a Palestinian-controlled area of Hebron, seizing strategic positions and killing five Palestinians in a gun battle. For Sharon, there will be no appeasement.

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WAR



A Tomahawk cruise missile launched from the USS Philippine Sea is part of the attack on Osama bin Laden and the Taliban regime



"We will not falter and we will not fail," Bush said—and Blair echoed that message. Clinton said the struggle will be "a long one."

BY BOB LEVIN

The question was never if, only when. From nearly the moment the World Trade Center and the Pentagon exploded into flames on Sept. 11, U.S. leaders have been rallying their armed forces, their allies and the American people for the inevitable retaliation. It came, finally, on Sunday, Oct. 7, with the launch of *Torrahawk*, cruise missiles from warships and submarines in the Arabian Sea. The U.S. and British attack was aimed at air defenses and military communications sites and terrorist training camps inside Afghanistan—the beginning of an ambitious operation called "Enduring Freedom" that left uncertain just how long it would endure and how much freedom from terror it would win.

Certainly the principals were talking tough. Speaking from the White House—which less than a month earlier had apparently been a terrorist target as well—George W. Bush said Afghanistan's ruling

Taliban regime had ample warning. Its leaders, the President said, had ignored his demands to oust overt terrorist mastermind Osama bin Laden, and "now the Taliban will pay a price." He scolded his masters of dissemination—"We will not falter and we will not fail"—and in London Tony Blair echoed his message. The Taliban, said the British Prime Minister, "were given the choice of siding with justice or siding with terror. They chose to side with terror."

In Ottawa, in the midst of the Thanksgiving weekend, Jean Chrétien said Canada is mobilizing military units to take part in the U.S.-led effort. The Prime Minister, which been criticized for his markedly measured response to the American tragedy and the coming campaign, said he spoke to Bush shortly before the attack began and agreed to "certain contributions." He didn't specify, but Tony leader Joe Clark—banned by Clinton along with other opposition leaders just prior to the strike—said he believed it



would be "support and communications." (Other help, Bush said, would come from Australia, Germany and France.) Chrétien warned Canadians to buck up for the long haul. "The struggle to defeat the forces of terrorism," he said, "will be a long one."

The lightning rod for that mobilization—the man "Wanted dead or alive" by Bush and covered by Middle East cartoons as a neo-synthetic hero—was quick to join the war of words. In a videotaped statement broadcast by the Arab satellite channel Al-Jazeera shortly after the U.S. and British attacks started, bin Laden—



In a videotaped message, bin Laden (second from left) said that on Sept. 11 America was hit by God in one of its softest spots.



who'd previously denied responsibility for the Sept. 11 attacks that killed more than 5,500 people—said "America was hit by God in one of its softest spots" and is now fragmented. "Thank God for that," he said.

Dressed in fatigues and sitting before a stone cave, bin Laden spoke softly, calmly, flanked by aides. It was daylight, suggesting the video was made before the Sunday night onslaught, though exactly where is unknown. The Saudi-born multi-millionaire said that "our nation has been using fire, blood and injustices for years. Millions of innocent children are being killed



in Iraq and in Palestine and we don't hear a word from the infidels." But "when the sword falls on the United States," he went on, "they cry for their children and they cry for their people." The American, he pledged, "will never taste safety and security unless we find security and safety in our land and in Palestine."

Bin Laden, of course, was well aware the blow was coming. American and British forces have been streaming into the region for weeks while officials at the diplomatic table for attack, laying out their case against bin Laden and his Taliban hosts. In



separate whirlwind trips, Blair and U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld met with leaders in Mafkar and Central Asian countries to solidify the coalition. One of Blair's stops was in Pakistan, the last country with official ties to the Taliban. And when President Pervez Musharraf—with Blair by his side—announced that his country had officially joined the anti-terrorism coalition, the diplomatic isolation of the Taliban and bin Laden was complete. After Rumsfeld visited nearby Uzbekistan, U.S. military forces began arriving at a former Soviet air base in



Northern Alliance fighters have kept up the pressure on the ruling Taliban; in volatile Pakistan (below), people listened to Bush's message of war with mixed emotions



Kabul, about 135 km north of the Uzbek-Afghan border

It was about 9 p.m. in Kabul, the Afghan capital, when witnesses heard five loud explosions. U.S. military officials said that soon after American and British vessels launched the first wave of cruise missiles, 15 land-based bombers—including B-1s, B-52s and B-2s (the latter the wing-shaped Stealth designed to evade radar)—and 25

jetliners dropped precision-guided bombs and more conventional explosives. Afghanistan's opposition Northern Alliance, which controls about 10 per cent of the country, joined in as well, shelling Taliban positions north of Kabul. Electricity went out across the city, and Kabul airport was hit. More explosions were reported in the southern city of Kandahar, where the Taliban have their

headquarters and their leader, Mullah Mohammed Omar, has a home. Also under fire was the sacred city of Jalalabad, where bin Laden maintains training camps.

No ground forces were involved in the operation, and despite anti-aircraft fire from the Taliban, Pentagon officials said no U.S. planes were shot down in the first wave. At the same time, a Taliban official said both bin Laden and Mullah Omar had survived. The Taliban released a statement declaring that the assault was "no surprise—a terrorist attack" and warning that America "will never achieve its goal."

The U.S. and its allies had another card to play: their planes' payloads were not solely military. Large cargo aircraft, they said, dropped humanitarian aid packages of food and medicine on regions far removed from the attack—presumably part of the \$320 million (U.S.) in aid Bush had announced earlier in the week, supplies desperately needed by the millions of Afghans weakened by drought and displaced by war. The planes also released leaflets meant to further sway the Afghan people. But no pessimism, gentle or otherwise, would change some hearts and minds. In Pakistan, which allowed U.S. planes to use its airspace, some Muslim leaders vehemently denounced the attack. "Americans," insisted Amar Mithili, spokesman for the militant Harakat ul-Mujahideen, "have used their right to kill innocent people in Afghanistan instead of targeting training camps."

Other countries, however, including Russia and China, were quick to voice their approval, and in his speech Bush expressed confidence that "we are supported by the collective will of the world." Or at least that part of the world not backing bin Laden's Al-Qaeda operatives, who are reportedly spread around some 50 countries—and poised to strike again. In Ottawa, where NATO delegates were meeting on Sunday, there was heightened security around the conference centre and Parliament Hill. In New York, National Guardsmen were deployed to buildings, bridges and tunnels, and police and firemen were placed on full alert. As Bush put it, America is a peaceful nation, but "there can be no peace in a world of sudden terror." Now Bush and company were gambling they could snuff that terror at its source—even as they dangled its deadly reply.



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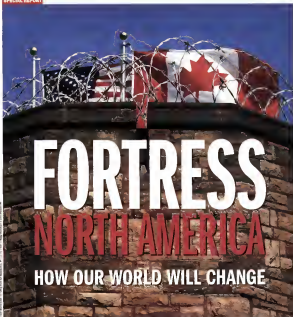
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Maclean's
SPECIAL REPORT



BY JULIAN DELTRAME in Ottawa

In the countdown to war, it was almost unnoted. Answering an unrelated question in the House of Commons early last week, Jean Chrétien revealed that he'd established the Ad Hoc Committee on Public Security and Counterterrorism, headed by Foreign Minister John Manley, to lead the government's anti-terrorism campaign. The Prime Minister dropped the news about the new cabinet committee so matter-of-factly that no one on the

opposition benches seemed to realize this business-as-usual response to the fallout from the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States was over. With one organizational shift, Chrétien had created a Canadian counterpart to Washington's newly established Office of Homeland Security and signalled a new era of co-operation with Canada's southern neighbour—one that could lead to a weakening of the country's cherished sovereignty.

Canada's role in the military conflict that began over the weekend is likely to be

small. On the home front, though, one contribution to the war against terrorism will be more substantial: just how much Ottawa and Washington intend to reach in today's effort to thwart further attacks is unclear. But Manley said in an interview with *Maclean's* last week that everything is on the table, from increased surveillance on the Canada-U.S. border and armed immigration and refugee policies, to the ultimate form of co-operation with the United States: the establishment of a security perimeter that would enclose a



Fortress North America—although he later called such a notion “utopian.” Even before the announcement of his appointment, Canada’s new security czar had talked over informal approaches with his U.S. counterpart, former Pennsylvania governor Tom Ridge. The two plan a more substantive meeting soon. “It’s going to be a step-by-step process,” Minsley said, “it’s going to be conducted in close consultation with the United States and there’s got to be a good sharing of information.”

Canadians do seem ready for almost any level of co-operation between the two governments. An Ipsos-Reid poll released last week found that 70 per cent supported jointly initiated border posts, and 85 per cent endorsed “making the types of changes that are required to create a joint North American security perimeter.” Also, 81 per cent and the two countries should adopt “common entry controls” in treating refugees and immigrants. “What this is all about is people searching for certainty relative to their security,” said David Bricker, the polling firm’s president of public affairs. “Whether the sentiment lays after the chilling memories of Sept. 11 fade, he added, depends on how security measures being doctored up in Washington and Ottawa affect people’s lives.

There was certainly no shortage of jitters last week, in a world still reeling from the strikes against the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon in Washington—and waiting nervously for the



At the Peace Arch border crossing near Vancouver (top), Minsley, who has discussed security with Ridge (right), says civil liberties won't be compromised

inevitable campaign against Afghanistan's Taliban regime to begin. A Florida man died from polio-suspected flu. Terrorists? According to officials, these probably a rare and isolated case. A Russian airliner carrying 78 people on route from Israel to Siberia crashed into the Black Sea. Another deadly attack by Osama bin Laden's Al-Qaeda network? U.S. and Canadian authorities said the crash was the result of an error made from military exercises in Ukraine, an explanation denied by Ukrainian spokesmen. A knife-wielding passenger slashed the neck of a Greyhound bus driver, causing a deadly crash in Tennessee that killed six people, the deadliest among them. Was he an Al-Qaeda member? Greyhound shut down for five hours as a precaution, pulling up to 1,000 buses off U.S. roads; the attacker, as it turned out, was an apparently deranged, illegal immigrant from Croatia.

Each such incident created ripples of fear.

Now, with the climate of uncertainty further exacerbated by war, how far is Canada prepared to go? Even before more discussions with the United States, it is clear tough new domestic security measures are on the way. Finance Minister Paul Martin, sounding unusually hawkish, said last week that cabinet had implemented—as an interim measure until legislation is passed—a key component of the Sept. 28 United Nations Security Council resolution dealing with the funding of terrorism. From now on, he said, the government is requiring banks and other financial services companies to review their records, freeze the assets of groups or individuals who are on the government's list of suspects, and report any suspicious transactions. The government can impose penalties of up to five years in jail for persons convicted of raising funds or having business dealings with the listed suspects. “We will destroy their capacity to wield military might against innocent people,” Martin said of terrorist organizations. “We are going to rip from their grasp the capacity to finance that violence.”

Justice Minister Anne McLellan, meanwhile, is expected to table a bill on Oct. 15 that for the first time makes it illegal to raise funds on behalf of terrorists, allows the government to seize—rather than just freeze—assets of terrorist organizations, and expands police wiretapping powers. As well, Immigration Minister Elton Callaghan asked the Senate to speed up passage of

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Special Report

Till C-11, which the issue will announce the processing of the 35,000 refugee claimants who show up in Canada every year, limit access to appeals, and make it easier to deport undesirable.

On the front lines, authorities have already beefed up security at airports, border crossings and other sensitive locations. Sometimes dubiously—last week, Minister Blanchard, 81, a final Second World War veteran, was charged with turning back three. His crime, according to family members asking security staff searching his wife's charge pass at Charlottetown airport whether they were looking for a (born) local police declined to comment).

Air Canada also called for the country to follow the lead of the United States and Germany and place armed sky marshals on flights (in Germany's case, they are armed with olefin darts). The airline added it will reinforce cockpit doors within 30 days of getting Transport Canada approval. Other developments, too, showed a state of heightened alert. The Vancouver police deployed as many as 100 men in a special investigative unit to trace radical elements in the city's minority communities—fearful that, in the event of war, Canada could be targeted from within.

Too little and too ineffective, critics say. Even if all the measures were adopted and police become more vigilant, they won't come close to stopping terrorists determined to enter Canada, raise funds for future operations and then strike, either here or in the United States. "Our border is Swiss cheese and the policies we have in place aren't," says Libbynet Lusk, professor of political geography at the Royal Military College in Kingston, Ont., and an Immigration and Refugee Board member from 1996 to 1998. Canada's problems come from identifying terrorists and then locating them, so holding and deporting them. The infamous case of Akbar Hussain—the would-be millennium bomber caught spying to smuggle a truckload of explosives into Washington state from British Columbia—illustrates a number of these problems.

Hussain came to Canada in 1994 using forged documents and clandestinely filed for refugee status. He was turned down, but managed to stay in the country because of Ottawa's policy of allowing remaining asylum seekers who could face death in home. And while few expected refugee



Caplan (below) wants to speed up implementation of Bill C-11, which she insists will streamline the processing of the 35,000 refugee claimants who arrive every year

claimants are entering, disappearance from the system while awaiting hearings or deportation are common. That means that catching the next Hussain will take more than new laws. What's necessary is a commitment of money and police manpower. Michael Greene of the Canadian Bar Association's immigration action said a Senate committee last week.

The government says it's prepared to spend what it takes. One preliminary estimate calls for between \$1 billion and \$5 billion in additional funds for the RCMP, the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, and the investigations and customs systems. Possibly using the new opportunity, University of British Columbia students lined up at a campus job fair last week for a chance to become spies for Canada. "We are looking for people who are concerned about the threat to the security of Canada, with a heavy focus on terrorism and how foreign governments are operating here," CSIS agent Ran Perko told the students.

But is the government prepared to take a further step—establishing a common security perimeter to protect both Canada and the United States from terrorist infiltration? To some degree, the logic is compelling, at least from Washington's perspective. It would take "hundreds of millions of dollars" to make a modest improvement in security along the currently undefended, 8,900-km-long Canada-U.S. border, says Paul Cellucci, the U.S. ambassador to Canada. And even then, the damage to the North American economy would be too great, he adds. With more than \$1.2 billion

in trade—and 37,000 trucks—spilling across the border daily, neither country could easily withstand the economic hit from the strangled flow of traffic. On top of that, there's the inconvenience to the millions of Canadian and U.S. citizens

who regularly cross the border to work, vacation or shop. While it's unlikely the U.S. will fortify the border, the Senate voted \$38 million to triple the number of Immigration and Naturalization Service agents from 300 to 900 in all the states that border on Canada, including Alaska.

But in Ottawa, the words "security perimeter" are rarely heard. One reason is optics. The Prime Minister has often gripped pains not to appear too cozy with the Americans. But Canada also stands to lose some of its sovereignty. For the proposal to make sense, both countries would—at the very least—need to harmonize laws and procedures by which they allow visitors, immigrants and refugees to enter. For instance, Congress will almost certainly pass an anti-terrorism bill within the month, giving the justice department new powers to detain aliens suspected of terrorism for at least a week without a hearing or a charge. Nothing in Ottawa's new immigration bill would permit Canada the same power. But if Ottawa did enact similar measures, Musée Bellevue, spokeswoman of the Council of Canadians, worries that the blurring of distinctions means the world would come to view Canada as being merged with the U.S. "It would be the worst of all worlds," she says. "We would have no influence over American foreign and economic policy, but we would have



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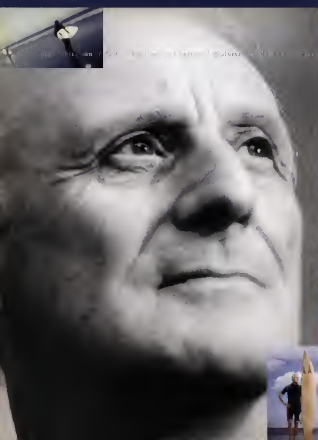
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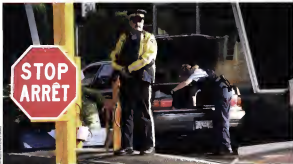
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Special Report



For some, the choice is clear: either a North American perimeter, or tougher and more expensive controls at the Canada-U.S. border.

to accept fallout from whatever policies they have."

Of course, there are different kinds of perimeters. Complete harmonization would be a so-called hard-shell approach. But Cellucci says there needs to be identical laws and policies for the idea to work. A soft-shell perimeter could be equally viable. Canada, the ambassador says, could maintain its separate foreign policy, even continue relations with countries the United States shuns, like Cuba and Libya. "We don't have to do things exactly the same," he explained. "But the goal has to be the same—to keep criminals out and get rid of those who're already here."

Despite Ottawá's attempts to publicly play down the perimeter proposal, momentum is building for its adoption, in fact if not in name. Several Canadian premiers, including Ottawá's Mike Harris, back the concept. If pressure from Washington mounts, Canada, which is more dependent on international trade with the United States, may not be able to resist.

"The U.S. is going to tighten up its border on a permanent basis and the question is, on what side of the tightening does Canada want to fall?" says Peter Menon, an expert on Canada-U.S. relations at the University of Maryland.

Even with a perimeter in place, security

along the Canada-U.S. border is slated for a major overhaul. But concern is public perception, causing work necessarily to be done slower for everyone. Proposals that have been around for years, like pre-clearance of transport trucks carrying goods from one country to the other, and the issuing of smart cards for frequent crossers, could be adopted. Cellucci says that would allow border agents more time to scrutinize higher-risk travelers.

Most of the measures currently under discussion are aimed at foreign nationals. But the spotlight could just as easily be trained inward—with repercussions for personal privacy and civil liberties. Some security experts have trumpeted the idea of photo-identity cards for every Canadian citizen—like the ones the government plans to issue immigrants. Closed-circuit cameras inside airports, casinos and other public locations have also been discussed. It sounds like a nightmare, but then again Canadians have no experience of what it would be like to live under the constant fear of the next terrorist attack.

Other countries do, and have learned to accept intrusions on their privacy. In Israel, all citizens and permanent residents are required to carry an ID card and produce it on request to a policeman. The card indicates whether the bearer's ethnic affiliation

is Jewish, Arab or another nationality. The simple act of going to stores, concerts, sporting events and movies routinely involves security guards inspecting bags and using hand scanners to check for metal weapons or explosives. At mandatory car parks, private security guards sometimes record the names of drivers and license plates, and demand that motorists open their trunks for inspection.

At present, the Canadian government is unlikely to take its cue from Big Brother. Marley says Canadians need not worry about losing civil rights. "If in our enthusiasm for waging a campaign against terrorism," he said, "we undermine our principles of an open society founded on democracy, then the terrorists will have won." But despite the minister's assurances, it's clear that in the better new world of fighting a shadowy enemy, some of Canada's most cherished ideals may come under threat.

With Tom Frowell in Toronto, Ken MacQueen in Vancouver, William Lawlor in Washington and Eric Silver in Jerusalem

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RELIVING THE PAST

The U.S. failed Afghanistan once before. But has Washington learned from its old mistakes?

BY ARTHUR KENT



Fires were lit, warplanes were poised to strike. And they did, over the weekend, bringing the warring game to an end. Washington had laid the groundwork carefully—advance scouting teams of American special ground forces likely used as the backbone in Afghanistan even as Washington rallied support among its traditional allies. But lost in the preparations, and then the rise of the attacks, was any consensus on what kind of Afghanistan should emerge from the conflict. "We're confused and divided," one senior congressional aide explained from Capitol Hill. "The old Pakistan-led approach to Afghanistan dies hard." That's a reference to the United States' reliance on the Pakistani military from 1979 to the early 1990s, to channel military aid to Afghan warlords, who eventually caused more bloodshed among themselves than against Soviet occupation forces. "You'd think Sept. 11 would have jolted everyone into realizing we need to design a whole new political creed for Afghanistan. Think again."

Nowhere is this chronic dysfunction more evident than in the lukewarm support of the Bush administration to attempts to focus national reconciliation around Afghanistan's exiled former king, Mohammed Zahir Shah. From Sept. 29 to Oct. 1, a disparate array of Afghan political and military leaders gathered at the 86-year-old former ruler's residence in Rome. Among those in attendance: Ahmed Zia, younger brother of anti-Taliban commander Ahmad Shah Massoud, assassinated by suicide bombers two days before the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Massoud's

Northern Alliance has never before signalled such enthusiasm for the co-located proposed safe and peace settlement. To veteran observers of the Afghanistan conflict, the meeting was a watershed event, an encouraging sign that Zahir Shah's symbolic intervention could, at last, be the mechanism for the convening of a truly effective Loya Jirga—or traditional grand council—which could create, in time, a government to replace the Taliban.

But the Bush administration at first did little more than signal its approval. Its attention was directed elsewhere—at Pakistan. There, the military, having suffered the ignominy of President Pervez Musharraf ditching their Taliban prospects and aiding with the U.S., is engaged in a frantic rearguard action. In order to salvage as much influence as possible in a post-Taliban Afghanistan, the chiefs of the Pakistan Inter-Services Intelligence branch were reportedly presenting two options to Musharraf, and, indirectly, to Washington. The first would involve the use of the ISI's dubious offices to bring about a coup in Kabul—in effect, a civil war between moderate and hardline Taliban factions. The second would be to install Abdul Haq, an old ally of both the Pakistanis and the Americans from the anti-Soviet mujahideen campaign of the 1980s.

To newcomers on the Afghan scene—and to a U.S. government scrambling to catch up on everything it has missed since turning its back on the region after the Soviet withdrawal in 1989—Abdul Haq enjoys a reputation as a distinguished, former guerrilla commander who lost a leg to a Soviet anti-personnel mine. He is a political aspert with many qualities that are right for the times. He is of Afghanistan's ethnic-majority Pashtuns, the southern tribes that must be reconciled from their

support, since 1996, of the Taliban. He talks respectfully of the former king and proposes a broad-based government should the Taliban fall.

But his close and long-standing connections to the ISI, together with his proven inability to work with ethnic Tajiks, Uzbeks and Hazaras—the backbone of the anti-Taliban Northern Alliance forces—mean that Haq carries a lot of



Haq (right) has captured Washington's attention, but he has been unable to work with the ethnic groups whose fighters make up the Northern Alliance (above)



explosive baggage. Significantly, he did not join prominent Northern Alliance commander at Zahir Shah's residence last week in Rome. He had previously sought a bilateral link with the former king, in effect, he wanted Zahir Shah to anoint him as the one and only alternative to the Taliban. Zahir Shah rejected Haq, but declined his request.

But since then, Abdul Haq and his Pakistani supporters have been able to capture Washington's attention, according to the king's spokesman on foreign affairs, Daoud Yaqub. This young Afghan-American lawyer, who is also executive director of the

Afghanistan-America Foundation, cautions that the Bush administration urgently needs to refine its policies on the crisis region. "The objective should not just be to get rid of the Taliban and install another military figure with a narrow base of support," he told *Maclean's* from Rome. "We've got to make sure there's a broad political dimension to what we're doing, a way to ensure that after this regime is gone, the Afghans can form a government of unity. That's the only way to marginalize the warlords and make sure that someone no longer have a safe haven in Afghanistan."

Yaqub's foundation boasts a prestigious



Zahir Shah (fifth from left), meeting with a U.S. congressional delegation at his residence in Italy, may be a force for reconciliation

membership. Former national security adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski and retired general Brent Scowcroft are honorary chairmen. Peter Tarnoski, the last U.S. envoy to the anti-Communist Afghan resistance, is a member, as are respected congressmen like California's Dana Rohrabacher and New York's Ben Rayburn. And in their efforts to support the re-ign, the foundation's activities have done their homework. They anticipate the Taliban's denunciations—that Zahir Shah is a throwback to monarchism and colonialism. That's why the group, particularly the exiling himself, has used repeated assurances that he has no ambition to re-establish the Afghan crown. Younger generations of his dynasty can have been purposefully seduced the only goal, say Zahir Shah and his supporters, is to form a Loya Jirga. Only that, they say, can win the Afghan people their freedom from warlords—and from foreign interference.

Despite progress, the foundation is underfunded, relegated to the minor leagues of advocacy in the U.S. capitals power structure. "For years, we've walked the beat in Washington," says David Yagelski, "warning our administration what might happen with the Taliban." The result was a \$100,000 grant from the state department for the Rome process promoting Zahir Shah. But over the past three weeks,

even with anti-Taliban alarm bells sounding and a call to arms against the regime's favorite foreign son, Osama bin Laden, increased support for the Afghanistan America Foundation was nowhere in sight. Worse, it was not until four days after the gathering of Afghan leaders in Rome that the Bush administration sent a senior figure, Richard Holbrooke, director of planning at the state department, to meet one-on-one with Zahir Shah.

Meanwhile, the Pakistanis, through Musharraf's office and that of military intelligence chief Gen. Mahmood Ahmed, have regular contacts with U.S. officials up to and including Secretary of State Colin Powell. To the despair of ordinary Afghans, the Gulf War hero's mantra is that the U.S. is not after "ben's building," but rather just the bagging of bin Laden. That translates to easy Afghan as an apparent U.S. willingness to compromise over Afghanistan's long-term future, and to again rely on the Pakistan to arrange an economic satellite, in America's view, for the short to medium term.

The Pakistan leadership is accustomed to playing by these rules. From Gen. Mohammed Zia-ul-Haq in the '70s and '80s through to President Musharraf today, the talk is of securing self-determination for the Afghans, while the walk of policy remains the same: keeping a firm Pakistan

gap on this uneasy neighbor's future. Realizing that he must appear overboarded in his approach, Musharraf called for a replacement to the Taliban regime that would safeguard the interests of all Afghans. He also issued an invitation to the ex-king to send a representative to Islamabad for talks. This was a gesture Zahir Shah welcomed—at least publicly. But behind the scenes in Rome, there's a feeling of bitter irony that an olive branch should be extended by a long-standing competitor to the Great Game of Afghanistan. Successive Pakistani governments have bitterly opposed Zahir Shah's return to influence in his homeland, even while America responds with hostility to a man who is arguably the most effective potential peace-maker—at least in the eyes of Afghans.

But as seasoned Afghan hands within Washington's diplomatic community will testify, the Afghan people have never figured prominently in the American's thinking. A case in point: George W. Bush's apparent astonishment at discovering that the United States has for many years been the Afghan refugees' leading donor of food. He reminded the world's media of this in a news conference this past week, and his voice almost cracked with disbelief why weren't the Afghans rising up to applaud his cash and every move?

The most pertinent question is: who



where are the advisors who could point out to Bush that the Afghan people remember too well the sacrifices they made in the war against the Soviets, and the great victory they secured—only to be abandoned by their American allies and see U.S. interests in Afghanistan virtually hounded over in the early '90s to the Pakistan military?

The answer to that question, and to the mystery of the half-hearted policy on Zahir Shah, has to do with influential insiders like Zaki Khalid, an American of Afghan descent who has woven an upwardly mobile career path through U.S. foreign policy since the Reagan years. The holder of a PhD in political science from the University of Chicago, Khalid has held several key positions in government and think-tanks and was appointed head of the defense department's transition team this past year at the start of Bush's term. A close associate of Vice-President Dick Cheney, he is now a senior adviser to national security adviser Condoleezza Rice. Khalid is of ethnic Pashtun stock. During the 1980s, he actively opposed

Alfred Shah Masoud, who was Tajik Pashtun, Khalid favored Pashtun leaders in the fight against the Soviets, a policy that saw disruptive, rigorously anti-American warlords like Gulbuddin Hekmatyar rise to prominence. Hekmatyar and other pseudo-fundamentalists among the mujahideen welcomed and nurtured

foreign pilgrims to the war—such as Osama bin Laden.

Khalid remains an adviser who is crucial to any Afghan seeking support from the U.S. government. Abdul Haq openly bloats of having Khalid among his staff, according to sources within the Afghan refugee community in Pakistan, who have spoken to Khalid on condition of anonymity. The same sources report that Haq is being pressured by American aid men seeking to build a gas pipeline from the north of Afghanistan to Pakistan's coast on the Indian Ocean.

This pipeline project, proposed by the Centrica consortium in the 1990s and backed by Unocal and Delta Oil, was scrapped due to the continuing civil war in Afghanistan, and the Clinton administration's gradual abandonment of any suggestion that the U.S. might recognize the Taliban regime. However, one voice inside in support of the project—and speaking in furious, at the time, of working with the Taliban authorities to make it happen—was that of Zaki Khalid.

Meanwhile, while intrigue and uncertainty cast shadows over the political front, members of the anti-Taliban Northern Alliance are clear on how things should proceed. "I don't say any option that will bring peace closer to our people," Covic. Abdul Khan told *Moscow* by satellite phone from his bank knee near Herat in northern Afghanistan. "The Taliban must



Khalid with U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld; Khalid speaking in Washington; at the Hindu Kush refugee camp in Pakistan, Pakistan (far left)

be crushed, but there is no final military solution possible in our country. The Loya Jirga, with the help of the U.S., is our best chance for the future."

If there is one Afghan who should inspire American awe, not just support, it is Ishmael Khan. Second only to Ahmed Shah Massoud's celebrated status during the war against the Soviets, the "Lion of Herat" has been the most painful thorn in the side of the Taliban regime's forces in the northwest of the country. He even pulled off an Asian version of *The Great Escape*, one that would make Steve McQueen's motorcycle-riding chivalier, Hells, green with envy. Ishmael Khan was captured by the Taliban in 1999, and welcomed almost a year of captivity in Kandahar. His cohorts managed to spray such to their agents in the city; they, in turn, brought off their commander's guard. One night on early June, 2000, Ishmael Khan, his deputy and their wayward Taliban-jailer escaped to the hills and westward to Iran. The commander later returned to Afghanistan, and is now poised to recapture his home town, Herat, from the Taliban.

All he needs, he says, is what Afghanistan and its people are yearning for. "We need to be rid of these extremists, this Taliban, then come together—all of us." Whether that will happen with or without U.S. support is, sadly, anybody's guess.



NOW IT'S SAFETY FIRST

Sept. 11 left us more willing to forfeit some liberties for the sake of security

BY ALLAN R. GREGG

While the details of my activities on Sept. 11 may have differed from those of other Canadians, I doubt my emotions did. Diabelfest wanted to despoil, fear for loved ones and finally a morbid desire to know more—to make sense of a senseless act. The natural response to uncertainty is a desire for closure. Our five-blush instinct of disorientation

turned to a hard, cold demand for fixity, for retribution; if those who had committed this crime were punished—better yet, annihilated—then the source of our disquiet would be removed and we could return to our previous, blessed lives.

Over the past few weeks, we demand any amount of information we could lay our hands on, in the process learning more about the world around us than ever before. And, as we waited for war, we discover-

ered that there was not going to be any quick and easy solution to our unease.

A questionnaire of public opinion polls published since Sept. 11 underscores the trauma the terrorist attacks have wrought upon the North American population. Almost nine out of 10 Americans claim that the disaster marked the most tragic news event of their lives. Over two-thirds believe there is a continuing threat to their and their loved ones' physical safety. In Canada,

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only slightly more than 10 per cent carry the same fear of terrorist attacks on our soil. Yet even having acknowledged that the attacks do not pose a clear and present danger to our nation, nearly eight of 10 Canadians say the tragedy has forever altered their lives.

Solid majorities in Canada and everywhere else in the United States were initially prepared to sacrifice lives, give up some civil liberties, hand broad powers to governments and, ultimately, "go to war" in order to eradicate the source of their horror. Since then, citizens from both countries still hold these views, but their desire for safety and security has softened their need for retribution. Before the alien began bombing, Americans said that the war they sought was not with a particular country or religion, but with a small fiction of fanaticism spread throughout the world. And they believe that, while the perpetrators will be caught and punished, the U.S. government's stated policy of eliminating terrorism is unlikely to be accomplished. Canadians go even further and declare that efforts must be directed at preventing future acts of terror rather than just punishing the wrongdoers.

The tragedy first heard from our leaders has likewise become more tempered and nuanced, mirroring the evolution of public opinion that has occurred over the past four weeks. It would seem we have come to realize that our initial desire for safety will not be fulfilled and that we will have to change our lives, not simply disavow the lives of others, if we are to cope and thrive in this new environment.

The polls reveal the salience of the attacks on the U.S. for Canadians in other surprising ways. For the first time I can recall, Canadians are prepared to support increased defence spending. Even more out of character, we appear ready to find it through increased taxation. Our natural aversion to being drawn down into the American orbit also seems to be evaporating. Almost 65 per cent of our citizens report a closer bond with Americans following Sept. 11 and believe our reaction to these events underscores recognition of a common set of values and interests.

In addition to accepting incoherence and the possible destruction of civil liberties, Canadians report a willingness to give

Airports in Edmonton (left), Toronto (preceding page) and elsewhere took a tougher stance as North Americans found themselves rethinking their priorities in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks

up a measure of sovereignty and to harmonize common policies in order to secure a "North American perimeter." Far from indicating a desire for a common identity with Americans, these findings merely underline an attitude that despite just below the surface of Canadian public opinion—a grudging understanding that, for good or ill, the domains of the two nations are inextricably linked. While this may dismay rock-ribbed nationalists, it should not shock. Given that we share culture and fear about the present and anxiety about the future, it is not surprising that our view of the world must always intersect our neighbors'.

Those of us who have analyzed Canadian polls in the past know that public opinion can often be fickle. But many of the behaviours and attitudes we are seeing are out of character with the world we know before Sept. 11. They suggest we are going through a wholesale cultural reorientation—a reassessment of what is important and what is unimportant in our lives. We are asking ourselves how we should be living our lives in the future. The September horror changed that generation's attitude towards truth, the Second World War gave new meaning to the horrors of distant age, the economic growth of the '60s forever altered our commitment to prosperity. More and more, the events of Sept. 11 appear to be producing precisely this type of change.

At this point, it is worth noting that only those who are truly secure can afford to ignore politics. Only when we feel our safety is guaranteed, our opportunities understood and our possibilities unfettered do we have the luxury of musing governments and the political process at large. Now is not that time. No one has to tell us that markets and business will not bring insulation to our crisis. Far from it, they are now part of the problem. The image of an indomitable Rudy Giuliani, carrying the burden of our nation, the beautiful elegance of Sharmila Persa or the compelling persuasiveness of Tony Blair, however, remind us of the fallacy of our misplaced loyalty. Politics and government, once again, form a central part of our lives.

Until this point, globalization has mood for better more than otherwise. Advocates have enjoyed more and the elimination of world borders not so much as a solution to the planet's problems but as a means of ensuring greater domestic prosperity. Sept. 11 opened our eyes to our insularity. Still dispising the cosmology of the devastation in New York City and Washington, we felt the aftermath in the grim reminder that entire nations are functionally dedicated to the destruction of the North American way of life. We have learned that we cannot afford to ignore the world around us.

The war against terrorism has been positioned as a fight between good and evil, decency versus inhumanity, freedom versus anarchy. Yet to wage this war we have and we are prepared to give up many of the very liberties we seek to protect. Some are prepared to die, some tears are prepared to see others die to "preserve" our way of life. So much for the sanctity of life. Phones can be tapped, suspects can be incarcerated without charge, mass assassinations will likely be sanctioned in the U.S.; the rule of law can be suspended.

We are abandoning to our collective impulse. We give up our unbridled freedom when we make it a stop sign. Our journey is extended and our inconvenience compounded. But far from being an effort to end society, this is its very foundation. The events of Sept. 11 have taught us that rights are not necessarily guaranteed, but governed by the needs of the community. Accepting inconvenience and limits to our individualism—something we have served to eliminate at every opportunity over the past three decades—now seems a small price to pay for the prospect of safety and security.

Tragedy on this scale has rendered our priorities. The wind on your face, a child's laugh, a phone call to your mother has a different place in our constellation of importance. Caring about how we are governed and who governs, failing a need to know more about the world we live in, accepting the limits to our individualism and the greater needs of the community, and considering humanitarianism as an offset to materialism: these sound to be the unanticipated byproducts of one of the world's most horrific days.

Allen R. Goggin is chairman of the polling and consulting firm The Strategic Council.

2001: An Excellence Odyssey

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The company's healthy workplace is a healthy workplace gone hand in hand with American Express' superior distinction for its implementation of quality principles in a quality environment. Located in Markham, Ont., the American Express Canadian Operating Centre was built with state-of-the-art amenities including a fitness centre, a quiet room for prayer, a full health centre, lounge and conference space.

Besides its appealing physical surroundings, American Express has created a strong culture where employees are encouraged and encouraged to contribute to company goals. Supported through a strong leadership, American Express celebrates employee corporate contributions, then report toward developing new initiatives, volunteer work and long service. Cross corporate contributions stretch out and suggest new ways to improve healthy workplace and quality business practices which are then considered and implemented by the company's leadership.

The American Express approach to a healthy workplace is not limited to its corporate structure. Our corporate values of people and community have inspired us to have a high level of employee involvement in numerous charitable and community activities," explains Gault.

Improving Access to Cardiac Care

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It is not how big you are—it's the focus on quality that counts. That's the message of the Cardiac Care Network of Ontario (CCN). With only a handful of direct employees but most of its first 30 years of existence, CCN has collaborated closely with Regional Cardiac Care Coordinators and cardiac professionals to achieve a 99 per cent accuracy level in the critical data it collects from 17 hospitals. The network analyzes and uses the data to advise the Government of Ontario how to improve access to advanced cardiac care procedures.

In the late 1980s, if you required an angioplasty, catheterization or open heart surgery, you may have faced an uncertain and daunting wait. CCN was formed to improve quality, efficiency access and equity for patients and their referring physicians. A dynamic partnership between medical professionals, hospitals and government has reduced patient wait times and deaths and has insured that the most severe patient's condition, the most he or she will receive treatment. More than 100,000 cardiac care patients now benefit directly from the work of the network and its commitment to quality focus on stakeholders and corporate responsibility.

The "heart" of CCN is the data collected on patient experiences. Periodic data definition reviews and training, monthly data verification procedures, and extensive biennial audits have combined to raise the confidence of all the partners," explains Mark Vint, the chief executive officer of CCN. "The result is greater trust, smoother collaboration and, most importantly, better decision-making."

CCN's highly committed leadership, volunteers and staff, a high standard of accountability, a clear mission vision and annual strategic plan, as well as an environment that values a wide range of contributions have created a national model of excellence in health care.

Canadian success, innovation and commitment to excellence will be celebrated at the National Quality Institute's Summit.

2001: An Excellence Odyssey on Wednesday, October 17 at The Westin Harbour Castle in Toronto. The 18th annual Canada's Quality for Excellence (CQE), is Canada's most prestigious national recognition program honoring organizational excellence in the areas of quality and healthy workplace. Public and private organizations large and small will be presented these awards during the gala luncheon moderated by Chairman and Co-CEO.

Jon Eakle of Research in Motion and hosted by CBC's Hans Gartner.

NQI is regarded as a leader in the design of principles, practices and certification programs for quality and healthy workplace environments. Organizations contributing to an excellence journey gain certification based on criteria established by NQI. The Canada Awards for Excellence are presented each year to organizations that have met the highest level of these criteria. All 65 Nations have similar awards programs.

NQI will also present its Inaugural Recognition of Achievement Award this year honoring those organizations for their roles in establishing and advancing the Canadian Space Program and securing Canada as a key partner in the International Space Station program. These awards will be presented at Space Aerospace, MIDWest and the Canadian Space Agency during the Summit's opening ceremonies.



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A Heritage of Quality

Trophy Recipient - Quality Award

In 1994, Clarence Spicer implemented the first seasonal part of practical value to the automotive industry. His discovery greatly improved the quality and safety of modern commercial trucks. Today the Spicer Driveshaft Group of the Dana Corporation bears his name and has a pioneering commitment to quality.

Located in Thorold, Ont., the Spicer Driveshaft facility is one of 23 facilities in the Spicer Driveshaft family devoted to manufacturing driveshafts used as commercial and light vehicle applications. As a global leader, Spicer Driveshaft Division earned its dominant position because of its commitment and adherence to quality principles in all facets of its operation.

The company's ethics and progress in the area of continuous quality improvement revolve around three key "people" areas: the customer, the inventor and Dana people. "All three are necessary parts of any successful business," explains Stuart Smith, manager of the Thorold plant. The company uses cross-functional teams to focus its efforts on continuous improvement. These teams include personnel from all areas of expense, and include customers. A flexible, decentralized system of management provides an open forum for the discussion and development of new ideas.

"The sharing of ideas and experiences provides a broad base of knowledge that allows us to better serve the customer," says Smith. Building relationships with customers and Dana people promotes a much stronger platform of understanding across the board. Open communication comes in the form of customer contacts and is then passed on to employees during monthly meetings.

In addition to its focus on people, Spicer Driveshaft Division has used the Dana Quality Leadership Process (DQLP) to evaluate and continually improve the performance of its key operations. DQLP has evolved to become Spicer Driveshaft's business model in the plant continues its quest for excellence in all areas of operation.


 Structural Solutions
 Division - Canada

Customer Satisfaction Through Evolution


Trophy Recipient - Quality Award

You hear a lot today about the global race to the top. In the automotive industry, a clear focus on quality and meeting customer needs has always set the most successful companies apart from their competition. Nobody understands the better than Dana Corporation's Structural Solutions Division of Canada (SSD).

As a manufacturer of sophisticated frames, cradles and complete structures for the North American automotive industry, SSD also provides engineering services in response to its customers' needs. Coupled with its clearly articulated Mission and Vision statements, shared leadership in quality and a clear corporate focus on becoming a partner with its customers, SSD has developed a strong foundation of excellence. With three Canadian operations located in Thorold, York and St. Marys, Ont., SSD has more than 1,100 full-time employees who embrace these quality principles with a passion.

"The establishment of our Mission and Vision statements in 1993 by our senior staff and the subsequent Quality, Environment and Ethics policies came to mind when I consider our approach to quality," explains Glen Serres, vice-president and general manager of structural solutions. "We believe strongly that getting our people to embrace this approach is a way of life and applying it on a day-to-day basis will lead us to success in particular, quantifying our Mission Statement allows us to measure the success and improvement of our operations."

SSD's focus on quality and customer service are key drivers in the company's approach to quality. It includes ongoing co-located engineers to work in the customer's own facilities with their team members. "We are in constant communication with our customer, as they tell us new criteria and we will adapt their requirements and modify our systems accordingly," says Serres. "Change is inevitable and the key is flexible people willing to accept new and different approaches."


 Diversicare Canada
 Management
 Services Co., Inc.

Offering Quality Care

Trophy Recipient - Quality Award

Climb the heights of customer and employee satisfaction in the retirement and nursing home industry in no new task, and often the best quality positions grow from the hands of first-line workers.

Consider the example set by the Diversicare Canada Management Services Co., Inc. and its Continuous Quality Improvement Program (CQIP) which celebrates the contributions its employees make to improve service.

Diversicare operates 14 long-term care homes and 23 retirement homes across Canada. It serves a growing market and specializes in creating retirement communities that offer a high quality of life for all residents. On a daily basis, employees interact with their elderly clients with compassion, care and a commitment to ensuring their quality of life, safety and well-being. The company has invested heavily in its CQIP program and focuses on quality initiatives on improving customer satisfaction, employee recruitment, development and reward.

"The main reason for our success is our continuous quality improvement or CQIP. We have 15 key indicators which measure a host of employee and resident concerns such as safety," explains Paul Richardson, president of Diversicare's Canadian operation. "We have also added eight quality of life indicators that focus on positive outcomes." We constantly look for ways to improve these indicators and outcomes to provide a better working environment for our employees and better care for our residents.

Information and initiatives from all levels within the organization are collected and shared through an annual CQIP conference which promotes the exchange of best practices within the organization around a theme of "I Can Do it Better."

"Our employees constantly look for new ideas to present to the executives," explains Anne Walker, vice-president of operations. "One of the chief components of CQIP is to let our front-line staff know how much we value their work and dedication."

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ADVANTAGE SUPPLIES

IBM
IBM Solutions Delivery Services

The Winning Spirit

Trophy Recipient - Quality Award

In the highly competitive world of providing business solutions, customer focus, precision timing, smooth hand-offs between team members and staying the course to meet goals have propelled IBM Solutions Delivery Services (SDS) to the winners podium.

Similar to a relay race, the professionals at IBM SDS are driven by a series of well-managed processes to deliver, in winning fashion, a diverse suite of mission critical services to support the North American sales and marketing divisions of IBM.

Handling a myriad of functions from custom configuration to procurement of goods and services requires a passionate commitment to quality which starts with every employee in SDS. "We have a strategic framework in place outlining our quality policy and quality principles. The framework is supported by our six core vision team: Leadership, People, Customer Markets, Supplies, Logistics, Process/Inventory," explains Nancy Bourne, manager of quality & operations support for SDS. "These vision teams focus on our commitment to quality and on our goal of Delivering Excellence. Delighting Customers."

Annual focus items identify goals and objectives and are communicated to all SDS employees. Focus items are reviewed with employees throughout the year and their progress toward meeting their goals. This continuous focus on quality has enabled the organization to deliver exceptional service and empowers each member of SDS to successfully handle the diverse array of responsibilities.

The fundamentals of our quality journey are a solid plan, with process documentation, measurement, continuous improvement and a commitment to staying the course. Most importantly it is the dedicated employees working as individuals and as teams," explains Brian Shawman, director, customer fulfillment. "Why make quality a passion? For our customers, for IBM, and for ourselves, because it is the right thing to do. This award is the ultimate good feeling for all of us in Solutions Delivery Services."

FRAM Honeywell
Honeywell Consumer Products Group

A "Family" Commitment to Excellence

Certificate of Merit - Quality

When you are a key player in manufacturing consumer air and oil filtration products for consumers and manufacturers, focusing on quality ensures things move smoothly. Recognized as a center for excellence in the global network of Honeywell Consumer Products Group, the FRAM® filter plant, located in Stamford, Ohio, has achieved clear, positive results in its bottom line that have customers, suppliers and employees delighted.

Employees in the company consider themselves a part of the "Family" and have a deep commitment to ensuring their company continues to grow and flourish. This coupled with a strong value based culture that is focused on customer, supplier and employee loyalty and demonstrated collective ownership of the company's strength has resulted in FRAM achieving growth in a soft economy. FRAM recently added 100 new positions in its Stamford facility to cope with the demand for its superior quality products.

Joan Cruz is the managing director at the Stamford plant. "Our vision is to create a climate that fosters customer, supplier and employee loyalty with a commitment to supply products that exceed our customers' expectations."

"Our three operative principles of a clear vision, employee, customer and supplier loyalty and our strong leadership team have been significant factors in our success," explains Cruz. "Our use of Hoshin planning to identify and implement breakthroughs and objectives has been key to our success, especially as it relates to delighting our customers."

In fact, FRAM has been able to reduce delivery times to customers by 25 per cent each year for the last two years. The company's success is measured by its commitment to NQI quality principles and an exceptionally strong sense of pride among employees. Both are key attributes at Honeywell Consumer Products Group focuses on continuous improvement ensuring a smooth road to excellence.

Glenage Elementary School
Quality in Learning

Certificate of Merit - Quality

Excitement in education comes from an environment that fosters an appreciation for quality in present and future learning. Embracing this kind of learning environment is at the heart of Glenage Elementary School.

Located in West Vancouver, B.C., Glenage is a public school with 30 full- and part-time staff. The 280 students enrolled in the school are exposed to a learning environment focused on fostering excellence. Staff share a strong appreciation of quality principles including teamwork, continuous improvement, learning outcomes and the future needs of their students to be successful in their life and learning endeavors. As a part of the school's quality journey, staff identified two curriculum areas where they felt continuous improvement was important, those included reading, fluency and comprehension in fiction and non-fiction and non-traditional authorizations.

Ensuring improvements in these two curriculum goal areas has meant that all staff and students adopt quality principles. And while the curriculum improvements and learning is ongoing, there have been immediate results for staff. "We have seen a lot of staff teamwork to ensure student success."

"By working through the NQI criteria, we became more focused and we have experienced a tremendous increase in teamwork. Our quality process has raised awareness about where we are and where we need to go. It has focused us on how we implement our quality initiatives," says Jones. "It really has changed our culture. We do better work as a team and we now connect everything we do or plan to take on, back to our mission statement. If a proposed initiative doesn't improve our focus on creating a quality learning environment for the students, then we don't include it. As a result, we have a much better program tailored to the present and future needs of our students."



By Jennifer Pitt Clark

WHAT WILL IT BE NEXT?

The experts see little chance of bacterial or chemical terrorism, but stores can't keep protective gear in stock

BY NICOLE JOHNSTON

Wesley Baker has his work cut out for him. As owner of Wesley Military Surplus in New Westminster, B.C., he's overwhelmed with customers, half of them Americans, shopping for survival gear in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Before the weekend strikes against terrorist targets in Afghanistan, he'd sold out of gas masks twice, had just six left from a re-order of 45 and was awaiting another shipment. Customers have left his store with chemical suits, water purification tablets, survival gear—even \$1,400 night-vision goggles. His most unusual request? "Gas masks in reds and cans." Nearby in Surrey, survival gear is in hot demand at the Urban Military Store. "I have 100 orders for gas masks on my wait list," says sales clerk Glen Levy. "Some guys even wanted a feed tube so he could eat with his mask on." While the business is welcome in surplus stores across the continent, Levy can't help reaching an unsettling conclusion: "The situation is on."

It's a sentiment echoed among public health officials on both sides of the border, even as they boost their preparedness to cope with a biological or chemical threat. "We're all grappling with these issues," says Mike Thelmer, director of the counterterrorism division of the federal solicitor general's department. But he urges the public to keep things in perspective. "The Canadian Security Intelligence Service," says Thelmer, "feels there is no specific

chemical or biological threat against Canada, and that the overall threat is low."

In New York City, authorities express concern that citizens are stockpiling the antibiotic ciprofloxacin as a protection against a feared bacterial terrorism attack. "Hoarding of antibiotics is just what we don't want to see," says Ronald Atlas, chairman of the American Society for Microbiology's Institute on Biological Weapons Defense.

If people start medicating themselves, he anticipates an outbreak of allergic reactions, wrong dosages and the further spread of antibiotic-resistant bacteria. "There are potentially more adverse effects because of the misuse of antibiotics than," warns Atlas, "than from an actual bioterrorist threat."

Still, people worry. In light of the attacks, momentum from intelligence agencies that terrorist Osama bin Laden has considered ways of distributing agents are unsettling. The latest horrors have exacerbated fears that spread after revelations in the '80s that Iraq was using chemical weapons on Iranian soldiers and its own ethnic minorities. In 1992, then-Russian President Boris Yeltsin revealed that the Soviets had been developing biological weapons.

The threat of chemical warfare hit home at the civilian level in 1995 when members of Japan's Aum Shinrikyo religious cult released the nerve gas sarin in the Tokyo subway, killing 12 people. The same cult also tried to spread nei-



ror biochemically by releasing potentially fatal anthrax and botulinum toxin on several occasions, but was unable to deliver them in an effective form. While Canada has been spooked such horrors in homes, members of the Bluebonnet State Ranchers club contaminated salad bars with salmonella in Oregon restaurants in 1984, causing 60 deaths but making 751 people ill.

So it can happen, and civilian defence agencies are scrambling to get the right resources in place. An attack could conceivably come in many forms. Bio warfare, for instance, differs disconcertingly from other kinds of attacks in that its effects are not immediately evident. There are no police, firefighters and ambulances rushing to the scene. Instead, it operates invisibly until the first victims seek help from physicians, likely at different sites. Authorities may not even recognize that an attack has taken place until a trend begins to emerge, possibly many days after an assault.

At that point, the gas masks, chemical suits and antibiotics that are flying off the shelves these days would have little to offer. "Protection is not at the level of the individual," says Atlas. "It is at the level of government, the public health system and medical physicians." If the attack has been effective, casualties could range from thousands to millions and grisly scenes would appear in hospitals and medical facilities. Fortunately, manufacturing biological weapons is no easy feat. Getting the organisms into the problem—they're generally bred in nature. Crafting them into actual weapons, however, poses many challenges.

The big threat is smallpox. Because it is infectious, and because our bodies no longer have a defence against it, it could spread uncontrollably if established in just one person. Declared to have been eradicated as an infectious disease by the World Health Organization in 1980, smallpox exists in labs in the U.S. and Russia. But there is suspicion, says Atlas, that Iraq and North Korea are hoarding clandestine stocks. U.S. authorities have roughly 15 million doses of vaccine available, and plan to produce more. If the disease gets established, a global smallpox vaccination program is one possible defence—as a projected cost of \$450 billion. On the downside, many children and people with weakened immune systems could die from the vaccine itself.



A suited-up fireman goes to the scene and helping passengers wait for help after a nerve-gas attack in Tokyo's subway killed 12 people in 1995

A lesser threat is anthrax, an infectious disease that can be transmitted to people from cattle and sheep. In their dried form, anthrax spores can survive for long periods, but the disease doesn't spread from person to person. Symptoms generally don't appear for two days to a week after exposure, at which point antibiotics are not very effective. However, John Collins, a biochemist at Harvard medical school in Boston, and his colleagues have discovered a molecule and a protein that can stop the anthrax bacterium's ability to double as a vaccine. Collier says, and the U.S. military has expressed interest since the trade centre attack.

Another potential avenue for terrorism—contaminating municipal water supplies—may even less likely to be successful. Because of the dilution factor, anyone trying to attack a population through its taps would need enormous quantities of an agent. Then it would have to survive chlorination and filtration systems. As for nerve agents and other toxins, their availability makes them unlikely weapons in a large-scale attack.

But who thought a terror attack using commercial airlines was likely before Sept. 11? It's a whole new world for defence specialists, captured in a new vocabulary. "No country in the Western world," says Thelmer, "is ready for a mass casualty CBRN attack." That's chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear to the layman. However, mirrored the threat, the solicitor general's department has had a program

under way since 1997 to fundraise emergency personnel across Canada with a national counterterrorism plan.

The goal is to co-ordinate response strategy at all levels of the community and government. "The Sept. 11 attack just underlined the importance of the work we're doing on this front," says Thelmer, who met with emergency staff in Regina last week. By the first week of November, he and colleagues will have reviewed plans with fire, police and ambulance personnel, physicians, nurses, public-health officials and other emergency workers in every province. At the same time, Canadians and U.S. officials meet periodically to discuss emergency preparedness. They are opening under 1999 guidelines ensuring co-operation in the event of a CBRN incident on either side of the border.

At the planning level, agencies are divided as to how openly a subject is sensitive as bioterrorism should be discussed. Health Canada officials declined MedNet requests for an interview on the topic. Some experts argue that talking about bioterrorism only gives some people ideas. But Stephen S. Jones, a virologist at Columbia University and director of the Center for Public Health Preparedness in New York, says the mystique surrounding bioterrorism is what triggers widespread fear. "Speculation is far more dangerous," reasons Moore. "We're telling terrorists what they don't already know or want to know. We want to do what we can to demystify these threats and put them into perspective."

From the shelves of Wesley Military Surplus.

Canadian army gas mask

\$100

British army chemical suit

\$60

SHOP UNTIL YOU DROP

The marching orders to consumers are clear: your economy needs you

BY KEN MACQUEEN in Vancouver

In war time, the role of the home front was one of saving, abstinence and sacrifice. Victory gardens were planted, Victory Bonds were bought. Hoarded cars, used food and scrap iron were made into battle tanks. Food and fuel were rationed, nylon stockings vanished, even new ties for the family car were a squandering of war resources.

It was a generous kind of patriotism, apparently ill-suited to these modern times. The war on terrorism—declared in the smoke and rubble of Sept. 11 and finally engaged with the bombings of Afghan targets on Oct. 7—is a shop-til-you-drop proposition. The marching orders of most every Western leader could be as clear: your economy needs you. Spend. Travel. Invest. Hearing the call is an army of what *USA Today* calls "the militant shopper." They, no less than their forebears of governments past, are committed to victory at any cost, but with zero-per-cent financing and low monthly payments. Debt before dishonour. You have nothing to fear but the fear of Visa itself.

Look at those four instant roses, said Joan Christie, speaking, appropriately enough, at a Liberal fund-raiser. "So," he said, "it is time to get a mortgage, to buy a home, to buy a car." He urged George W. Bush, Vice President of the World: "Get over the business of America." On the dusty beaches of New York's 11th Avenue, he urged: "Fight back. NB! Spend money!"

Who knew patriotism was so liberating? For \$30 at Belfry you can buy a silver maple leaf pin "to reflect Canada's support and companionship" for American friends, with proceeds to the September 11th Fund. A *Canadian* newspaper advertises pictures of hands gripping a steering wheel, in the shape of a peace symbol. British Columbia's *Vancouver* and *Calgary* advertise diamond earrings under the headline:



HELP
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In past conflicts, Victory Bonds were the answer. Today, it's zero per-cent financing.

"Tell him it's his parents' duty."

Few are better qualified for this mission than the spendthrift North American consumer. We have credit cards, more than 40 million in Canada alone, and we know how to use them. It doesn't much matter where these plastic weapons are pointed, every closed deal has been declared an act of courage, an affirmation of capitalism, a body blow to psychopathic terrorism everywhere. Consumer confidence was all that kept the beleaguered economy upright before the attack on the symbolic backbone of American finance. Now, we're all soldiers. We shall fight in supermarkets, in a new SUV. And on the beaches, at any available Club Med.

One doesn't have to be a canny anti-consumer like Kalle Lasn, editor of *Vancouver-based* *Adweek* magazine, to question the wisdom of this. But it helps. Lasn has brought nothing but food and necessities since the attacks. "After this incredible

consumption binge of the past 10 years," he marvels, "now we're expected to consume even more to solve the problems!" His fellow critics of Western consumerism have been sidelined by the crisis, he concedes. "We're having a hard time, because many people are saying, 'Shut up. Just buy something!'"

Yet the empty airports, shuttered markets and market-down cars on the lot show patriotism has its limits. If consumers are supposed to play this confidence game, why not business, or government? British Columbia is set to slash its public services. Alberta has put the brakes on spending. As for the federal government, "We are not going to spend ourselves into a deficit," said Finance Minister Paul Martin. How confident is that? What about such bastions of courage as Norel, Air Canada or Bombardier—what message is sent by their blizzard of layoffs?

Maybe individuals have done their bit. Just this summer, in a simpler world, commentators worried about the ability of U.S. consumers to keep their heads above a rising tide of red ink—a \$7.3-trillion (\$1.5) debt, twice the level they faced in the last recession. Canadians are also in trouble. Student loan debt was six times higher in 1999 than in 1984. Prime consumers, aged 25 to 34, owed \$40 for every \$100 in assets in 1999, a 25-per-cent increase since 1984. The nation's outstanding credit card balance is exactly that, outstanding. It's tripled in the past decade to almost \$40 billion.

So, spend or hoard? Look at the nation's ecosystem in a room and you'd not achieve consensus—though, my, wouldn't the silence be grand. The answer is in each individual purse and wallet. Maybe you can afford to stare terror in the eye and sheer change. Maybe not. Rebuild the economy is a house of credit cards, and who wins there?



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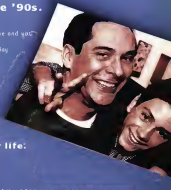
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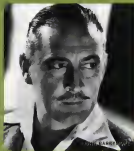
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Part-time author, full-time babe

Don't judge a book by its cover girl—a driving advice for supermodel-turned-mystery writer Tiana Moon. A year ago, when HarperCollins's *Amazonia* released *Finch—Moon's gritty tale of a Vancouver Island-born model and forensic psychology student who pursues a serial killer with a sting for stillfences—the reviewer* assumed her "Half was positive and the other half was, 'Who does she think she is? [Is] she really worse than herself?'" recalls the Victoria-born author, who has sold the film rights to her best-seller. "I guess writing isn't something you do for *glory*."

Beate does add to her impressive résumé. Moss, 27, who is now based in Sydney, Australia, still models part time, hosts TV shows, recently finished a year-long tour

as a true-crime columnist for Australian *Spy* magazine and is "twinking" her new novel, *Split*. Meanwhile, *Feist* will be released in Canada this spring. Despite these many accomplishments, the Australian media are most interested in her personal life—which until recently involved Canada's Olympic rower **Derek Parra**.

Moss, whose writing style has been compared to *Patricia Cornwell* and *Thomas Harris*, hopes instead that people will begin to focus on her book *smarts* and not on her beauty. "It's nice to be recognized as me instead of just as *other model*," she says. "I've been modelling for 15 years and done 25 magazine covers around the world, so it's nice to be able to be me finally."



Foamy nest, 12 groups

The Good book

Martinez Speedwrites a book. He takes a long nap and smokes the best between musician and author. How he will be awarded on the other side is, as of yet, unknown. The 30-year-old Colombian, it's been said, plays the *Martinez Good World* is both defiant and brutally honest about his first efforts at writing. He explains that he was "tossing his own legs" with *At Last There is Nothing to Say*—a blasphemous compilation of short fiction as well as some manifestations of what first appeared on his band's Web site.



Farmer Zahn

Steve Zahn doesn't have the most recognizable face in show business. In fact, two years ago he couldn't even get a ticket to the award's dinner at the Sundance Film Festival—and yet, he was being honored that night for his performance in *Happy, Texas*. "Someone gave my ticket away, so a few of us watched the show in a bar," says Zahn, 52. "We were walking down the street when suddenly this car comes screaming up—kind of like the CIA—and these guys are like, 'You need to come with us, you've won an award.' Even then they wouldn't let me in. I was like, just take me back to the bar."

Zahn's breakout role came in Ben Stiller's 1994 indie hit, *Reality Bites*. Since then, he has played opposite some big names—including George Clooney in *One of the Guys* and Tom Hanks in *That Thing You Do!* The name of Marshall, Mass., currently coasts in the soap-drip district *yo Rich*, with Paul Walker and Leanne Schickel. Although he's one of Hollywood's favourite comedic sidekicks, Zahn spends most of his time in New Jersey.



Funny not famous

But what will the critics say? "I'm sure they will call it pretentious and ridiculous and a waste of people's time," says the slight, impetuous musician. "I expect it fully." And how would Good review his own work? "Intellectually incoherent. But it's bound. There are no flowering borders. Rules. It is what it is. It's a beginning." Aware that he here as a musician will be what sells this work, Good admits that if it gets one led to "turn off his TV and read," "it's a good thing." How very Martha Stewart of him.

Read more from Matthew Card [online](#)



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The digital divide

New TV channels will take years to make money, even without a recession

BY DANYLO HAWALESHKA

Doing something for the first time, especially if it requires losing tens of millions of dollars, should be nerve-racking. But Martha Fusco, chief executive of Stormont Communications LP, a newcomer to the uncertain world of digital television and specialty channels, is prepared to go through all that. It's not as bad as it sounds, says the affable CEO, who oversees a cable public affairs offering called i channel, as well as i-persona, a dance channel, and i-movie, which screens short films. The numbers have been crushed, due diligence done, says Fusco. It's just that it could take as long as five years before the channels make money.

Toronto-based Stormont is not alone. On Sept. 7, a phalanx of content providers began wading into deep pools of red ink to launch more than 60 new channels into Canada's young digital TV universe. The marketing trick now, says Fusco, is to get more Canadians signed up. "There's a lot of really good stuff on—*loosey*," Fusco enthuses. "Everybody is beating a gun trying to provide you with stuff to get your eyeballs."

But will Canadians watch? Tough call. Certainly the launch's timing was unfortunate. Four days after satellite and cable companies began airing free previews of the new channels, outside banners levelled the World Trade Centre. Most viewers were glued to CNN or other news channels. That hurt, says Marie Moun, publisher and editor-in-chief of Decima Publishing Inc., which monitors the broadcast industry. Ad campaigns to familiarize the public with the dozens of different channels failed. "Basically," says Moun, "people's attention was elsewhere."

Worse is the huge economic impact the attacks have had. Ad dollars, already soft in a slowing economy prior to the Sept. 11 attacks, nosedived in the financial crisis.



Fusco, on the set of i-persona, says viewers have to be convinced they need extra channels

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Business

that followed. The hope now is that people are ready to get on with their lives, and eager for a bit of small-screen escapism. As the market grows, so will the number of advertisers, goes the argument.

Digital distinction, however, is available at a relative low so far. There are just 2.3 million digital subscribers in Canada—a rather small number compared with 10 million analogue customers on regular cable. But digital is to subscribers CD-quality sound, a sharper picture, and the option of subscribing to individual channels or discounted bundles. Satellite services have always transmitted digitally, but cable companies are now joining the party in earnest, since they can squeeze up to six digital channels through the same pipeline that used to carry just one conventional analogue channel (digital transmissions, relying on the discrete one-and-one-half language of computers, can easily be compressed, just as they are in computer music or picture files). The market leader, according to DeWinn, is satellite-based Bell ExpressVu, with a 37-per-cent share of digital homes, followed by Star Choice, also via satellite, at 26 per cent. The country's third giant, Shaw Cable with 12 per cent of the market and Rogers Cable (whose parent company owns *Madabout*) with nine, are expected to increase their share as more cable subscribers take the digital plunge.

Metz says it's hard to predict how many people will be willing to fork over more money for more TV, at least in the short term. "There are very lean business times," he notes. "Will twitchy-fingered surfers pause long enough to, for instance, give blandly named Basic Television a chance? How David Richter, author and TV personality, promises to be provocative, says Jay Switzer, president of Toronto-based CHUM television, the channel's producer. Switzer recalls the doubts when CHUM launched early *Beavis* on regular cable in 1995. That channel has since thrived, notes Switzer, who has equally high hopes for *Beavis*. "There will be," he promises, "nothing boring or stuffy about this channel."

There better not be. Sports marketers

like Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment Ltd., which is offering Rogers TV for basketball fans and Leafs TV for hockey-fans, figure programmers need something unique. "If you're just stuff, nobody will watch," says Ken Dryden, president of the Toronto Maple Leafs. "Nobody needs more stuff."

And stuff, useful or otherwise, costs money, though how much remains vague. Only Bell ExpressVu has announced pricing, in channels will retail for as little as \$1.99 a month. Yet anecdotal evidence suggests the new channels are driving a surge in sales for digital boxes and satellite dishes. While the World Trade Center crisis distracted viewers from the new channels, it didn't stop people from picking up the required hardware to watch them, says David McLennan, Bell ExpressVu's president. "I don't want to be insensitive towards what happened," says McLennan, "but the fact is people continued to buy the product in volumes that were stronger than even we expected." Rogers and Shaw also report higher digital sales since the channels were launched.

The economics may be challenging, but there is clearly no shortage of players willing to take the short-term financial hit. As a carrier of many of these risky ventures, Rogers Cable president John Topy thinks the majority will survive. "Most of these channels are owned by pretty serious broadcasters," says Topy. "These are people who both know the business and who have the resources to have some staying power." Topy's counterpart at Shaw Cable, president Peter Blumagette, puts it another way: "Some will die on the vine."

Marketing will be key. For some, even bad publicity may be good publicity. *PrideVision*, a channel aimed at gays and lesbians, filed its compliance with the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission, saying Shaw was discriminating because it required viewers to pay a sales one-cent fee to access the *PrideVision* preview. Shaw said it would be irresponsible to supply adult content—shows such as *Fridy Friday* and *Seamy Saturday*—without viewers' permission.

Satellite or cable?

So you want to make the plunge into the digital wilderness. What's it going to cost you? No one will tell you yet, with one exception: that you can make an educated guess. If you're already a subscriber to regular cable, you need to add a digital set-top box for any TV set on which you want to watch the new channels (the regular one will still show on your other sets). Rogers and Shaw charge about \$12 a month for the box. Satellite subscribers already have a box for at least one set.

Then you have to pay for the channels. Only the Bell ExpressVu satellite service has an announced pricing; the others are trying to hook you with free previews. But they're likely to end up close to Bell. Then, adding the new channels sets at a three-month or additional \$2 to a month each. The new channels are also bundled with established ones at introductory rates of \$35.99 to \$62.99. Adding individual digital channels to a bundle costs \$1.99 each. The choice is yours.

But the CRTC, noting *PrideVision* is one of 18 so-called category I channels, which carries an agreed-to show, ruled Shaw must discontinue the practice.

Then again, since, careers have been known to bush one another to attract business. Fusion in *Sevenscore* is unhappy with the attack ads it's seen. While she declines to name names, it isn't difficult to imagine she's referring to Rogers and Shaw-owned Star Choice, which has traded barbs in TV commercials focusing on cable versus satellite. (Shaw has since withdrawn its ad, which is Ontario—Rogers' key turf—affiliated to a cable-biased monopoly.) "Instead of promoting the positive aspects of what's coming on digital, they're trying to tear each other up," says Fuqua. "What a waste of time and energy." Resources, she adds, would be better spent highlighting the advantages of the new digital channels. She notes that the \$40 it can cost a couple to go out to a movie will buy a box of digital channels for the whole family for a month. In tough economic times, says Fuqua, "the question becomes a digital something I need?" A lot of business plans rest on the answer.

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Business

A whole lot of stuff

A turn of the digital dial offers sex, sports, religion and blackjack lessons

BY VICTOR DAWY

The World Trade Center has collapsed. The Pentagon has been hit. The U.S. President was last seen hauled up in a bunker in Nebraska. And I had spent several hours surfing from CNN to CBC to CNN again. And then, weary and curious, I headed to channel 130, the place on my dial that marks the onset of the new-digital-TV offerings. 2.3 million Canadians began receiving, over the past month. Heck what I found: a sexy black-and-white movie on Science, a former discussing the fate of his crop on Country Canada, a harness event on The Racing Network. This world was on an alert and, with the single exception of news-driven MSNBC, my 60 or so sparkling new channels could not have been more blissfully obscure.

And that, I suppose, is either a vindication or an indictment of the mind-boggling array of often coyly named channels that, in their first few weeks on the air, have managed to look novel, generic, inventive and—a fair bit of the time, at least—irrelevant, frivolous and sure-old, sure-old. Among them are no fewer than eight sports-oriented channels, ranging from the Women's Sports Network to Xtra Sports (Muz TV's kickboxing, anyone?), four music channels, including one called MachVibe (a role just waiting to become a parental catchphrase for all teen razzies); sex movie channels; and a broad spectrum of special-interest services aimed at everyone from women (busts and colorists) to legal jankies, bibliophiles, Roman Catholics, gays and gyps.

What unit to say you'll always find what you think you're in search of. Take the most blatantly labelled of the bunch: SexTV, and so say, seasons almost no sex, opening instead for things like documentaries on Army Fisher (that's right, the Long Island Island),

Susan Lucci movies, and documentaries on women undergoing breast implants ("at the factory," as one of them helpfully puts it). Even when SexTV heats up late—way late—at night, it's still pretty vanilla, and certainly no hotter than what the incoherent Samantha gets up to on Sex and the City, which has been airing in Canada on boring old cable for almost four years.

SexTV is not alone in brazenly defying its mandate. Along with lots of great British-created series, such as the legal soap opera *This Life* and the coarse-grained medical drama *Casualty*, BBC Canada's "whole new generation of British television" includes *Dear Sarah*, a show set in the U.S. about a very Canadian RCMP officer. Fashion Television Channel—which has the ground running, with intelligent pieces on everything from Italian design to avant-garde architecture—also made in a scrappy, cop-centered TV movie on psychopath Andrew Chanen (who, granted, murdered designer Gianni Versace, although I think even quipsters fans would call it a bit of a stretch in air history here).

But perhaps the new channels can't win for losing the battle to give every last subset of viewers exactly what they'll want. When, on its first night up, the gay-themed *PrideVibe* showed a pair of naked lesbians wedding on a boat, you could practically hear gay eyes across the country sighing sadly and clicking over to MachVibe (whose playlist is as funky as any after-beat club) and the modestly ethical dance channel *Boyz n' (for bears) peevies*. No doubt many also passed at M, whose rough-and-ready lineup is under-traded for high-transcendence racialized blackjack lessons, raunchy Benny Hill reruns, and nature shows on predatory animals like fire ants and porcupines.

Pondering these pantheons, no matter how much genre ought they might provide Ray Street power buttons, you have to wonder what unspoken malice of catch-phraseshood lie in wait for digital subscribers. As I watched a marathon on the Women's Sports Network, I couldn't help musing that I had never come close to actually running one. And listening to Canadian author Helen Humphreys talk about her latest work of fiction on Book Television—one of its eclectic selection of shows on everything from comics to the Bible—occurred to me that I'd never gotten around to reading the novel. With 50

new channels to watch, what are the chances I ever will?



After fashion, there's always the news

That said, there's no denying that expanding the TV universe offers great opportunities for engaging with the world—even doing a fair bit to deracinate it. With a fresh accessibility that only the internet has this matter, TrickTV's loop of ever-friendly consumer-education shows has already taught me more about hand-held compasses than a year's subscription to the imperishable *PC World* magazine. And where but the Zen-buddy *One The Mind, Body and Spirit Channel* am I going to find out how to use the principles of Feng shui to ace that crucial job interview?

In any case, this is TV we're talking about. And TV as it is best is about having fun—which in an heyday meant laughing at Lacy's budget-strung home porno, or watching as the Partridge family has got caught in a speed trap and Shirley almost spent the night in jail. Between the Wild West-hazy *Lawrence*, the detective-centric *Mystery*, and the sitcom-and-day of TV Land and the boldly named *DevilView*, all this new TV delivers a lot of the best of the old stuff. To my mind, that's good thing. Even the sports world has clicked to the

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Business

power of nostalgia. ESPN Classics Canada presents "the drama of the world's greatest sporting moments" over and over and over.

Not into the old? These promises to be no shortage of the genuinely new, as the cable-lot assault on the network's former monopoly continues apace. Sometimes that will make for short distractions, as in the we-want-to-be-seen-but-we're-actually-dilly channel, which has given the execrable "De" Laura Schriener a twice-daily spot, and where a rapid Catherine Clark, daughter of Joe, one morning interviewed a member of the Kennedy clan and asked him little details about what it was like being from such a big family in Christmas. And sometimes it will mean pushing the envelope simply for the sake of it, as when *Morville*, devoted to "short films of all genres," aired a movie about people who like to be shot with guns because the acts are so cool (gravely warning beforehand that trying this at home could cause "critical and permanent bodily and neurological damage").

Yet whatever its weaknesses, digital TV's new lineup has one obvious, and not inconsiderable, strength: the sheer quantity of extra real estate unleashed on this appliance in the middle of your family room. Not all of it will be brethren, by any means. But some of it will be useful (as when the Discovery Health Channel aired a step-by-step show on the warning signs of stroke). Some of it will be inspiring (as when the Realist Television Network broadcast a room for the New York City rescue workers at St. Patrick's Cathedral). And some will be, if anything else, a healthy step up from the usual TV parlour—like, say, the Documentary Channel's recent airing of *Manufacturing Consent*, the acclaimed, decade-old doc about purveyor and master Niels Chomsky. It's due now in which the popular firebrand evokes a day when advances in technology widely expand the offerings on the TV dial, making way for a world in which real people—wired and all—have a fighting chance of seeing a glimpse of themselves, and something that matters to them, somewhere on the dial.

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Donald Cox

Terror versus greed

In the hours and days after the World Trade Center attack, a recurrent theme was, "Sept. 11 changes everything." To date, the early line has proved accurate. The U.S. and Britain glad for war, the economy is in recession, hundreds of thousands of North Americans have lost their jobs, global stock markets are down, the entire air travel and tourism industry is in crisis.

Yet for Wall Street, one thing has not changed—how to value stocks. Wall Street's big-name strategists, notoriously bullish through the 1990s, are telling us to increase our exposure to equities because stocks are cheap. These cheerleaders mean with currency optimistic passes about what firms will earn next year, and then say the inflated price-earnings ratio (using the Standard & Poor's 500) is low. Ergo, stocks are a buy.

In this instance, analysts pretend the S&P is a stock, then calculate or predict its "earnings" according to the precise weighting of the 500 companies in the index. If one accepts the forecasts that the S&P will earn at least \$52 next year (a figure I consider absurdly high), then with the S&P at 1,071, the market has a price-earnings ratio of 20, down sharply from recent P/E's, but above the long-term average of about 15.

What is the right price-earnings ratio for stocks? More Wall Street pundits suggest 25 to 27 is reasonable, so the market could rise by one-third from present levels and not be overpriced according to valuations that prevailed during the late 1990s. One wonders. Equity investing is a faith-based initiative. Stock dividends are lower than one can earn on bank accounts, the situation that makes a stock a good investment is faith that the company will grow its earnings and dividends faster than inflation over the medium and long term and that the price-earnings ratio will hold steady or go up. U.S. companies grew their earnings faster than inflation during most of the 1990s, but what made stocks really soar from 1995 to 2000 was a big increase in the price-earnings ratio. The enthusiasm for those lofty valuations still applies.

I believe Sept. 11 did change the way to evaluate equities. The biggest reason stocks boomed big during the 1990s was because it was the first period of sustained peace at a time of economic progress since the Roaring '20s. Here's why stocks are worth more in peace than in war.

First, the economy works better and companies make more money. In wartime, workers are hindered from producing goods and services to go out and tell people. Government's share in the economy runs sharply, and government's purchasing practices reflect emergency conditions, fear of running out of sup-

plies, plus an overall sense that nothing should get in the way of the war effort. Trade is constrained: the number of countries one considers "friendly" ending partners shrinks and shipping lanes may not be secure. Protectionist ideologies, because so many industries claim they're vital to national security and must be kept humming. General loans are under pressure to buy government bonds, even if that means excessive monetary growth. Consumers and businesses shutter down, and heart can't.

Second, war in which one's own country is a battleground are particularly tough for businesses and consumers. If it's over there, civilian life can go on despite the shortages, disruptions, rising rates and concerns for developments abroad. As a nation, the U.S. is brave, bold, optimistic and self-confident. "The sky's the limit" is a national aspiration.

Those sentiments favored the entrepreneurial, consumer economy of indulgence, speculation and heavy capital spending that spawned the great bull market.

The terrorists are not America's enemies. Barring the unlikely possibility that Bush can wipe out Islamic terrorism fast, those glorious—and gloriously profitable—days may not return.

Chicago is a city where most Florence is a Renaissance art. Since Sept. 11, the observation decks on the tallest building have closed, and many people who work on the highest floors are seeking counseling. Spawning O'Hare airports, which drew Congress within the nation's worst borders, now has overabundant runways. Chicagoans have a Hobson's choice: we can, like many people, forge flying "and we know it's safe," or across our courage to the landing place, which is the long, long leap to clear security.

NAFTA, Japanese-style inventory controls, and supply-chain management helped American industry grow its productivity and profits in the 1990s. Now, the search for the nearest needle in the needle stack at the border is gaining productivity and raising fears that "Buy American" coefficients could mean P/E ratios for the S&P 500 during the unforgiving Cold War were ready in the water. During the 1990s, we had a critical, peace, fair productivity growth, and falling inflation. Today, only the inflation news remains good.

The stock market's classic claim has been fair versus greed. War and terrorism run fear, peace and boom times breed greed. Now, it's terror versus greed. It may be a new era.

Donald Cox is chairman of Horan Investment Management in Chicago and Toronto-based Jones Henshaw Investments.

OUR POET OF THE APOCALYPSE

In the wake of September 11, Leonard Cohen reflects on love and death—awar on America



BY BRIAN D. JOHNSON

It was the August heat wave, that mangle of endless summer. We talked in the silence of his air-conditioned house in Montreal, as he smoked cigarettes and I drank his strong coffee. After five years in a Zen monastery on California's Mount Baldy, Leonard Cohen was down from the mountains—"back on Rimpie Street," to quote his new album. His clinical depression had mysteriously lifted. And in the iridescent heat of the afternoon, he was buoyant, almost jumpy, as if still discovering the novelty of happiness.

Now it seems like eons ago, the last innocent August when Canadians could choose to worry about global warming, or bask in it, unaware that before the end of the summer they would be worrying about the end of the world. In the wake of Sept. 11, I e-mailed Cohen to ask when he was when he'd heard the news, and to suggest the need for a fresh interview. His reply floated back from cyberspace in the form of an efficient little stanza:

*writing this from hospital
consciousness uncertain
will be back in LA end of week
we should talk*

And we did, in a series of phone conversations from his house in Los Angeles—which Cohen calls home most of the time, although he still maintains the house in Montreal. Our first call coincided with his 67th birthday, on Sept. 23. Cohen had just come back from visiting friends in India, which is where he found himself on the morning the sky fell in Manhattan. "That afternoon," he says, "I went back to my little hotel in Bombay, and the clerk behind the counter, an Indian man, said, 'I'm sorry, the Empire State Building has been knocked over.'" Cohen went up to his room and, like the rest of us, stared at the television. "It was a shock, but not a surprise," he says. "I've been living in an exploded landscape for a long time. I have a place to stare at all of this. Because I've felt that things were going to blow up—it was as specific as the twin towers—but I've felt for some time there was going to be a shaking of the situation."

Leonard Cohen may be best known as a poet of romantic distance, a cool-headed

who makes "music to sit your wits by," as one critic famously jibed—or, in a legion of female admirers, simply the sexiest monk alive. But although he is too modest, or shrewd, to admit it, he could also be considered a prophet of the new world disorder. Our poet of the Apocalypse.

Cohen's secondary anthems of the late '60s and early '70s, from *First We Take Manhattan* to *The Future*, were much farther afield than his own equaniously tormented soul. And so listen to them now as a revelation: they illuminate the current geopolitical landscape with chilling precision. I'll get to the new album later—*Ten New Songs* is a deeply interior meditation on love and death, a balm for the soul that now feels more essential than ever. But first, let's go back to *The Future*—and the title song, which has acquired a eerie relevance nine years after its release.

It's a dare manifesto, a fin-de-siècle *Spectacle for the Devil*, in which Cohen assumes the voice of a sinister oracle: "I've seen the future, brother / he is murder! / Things are going to shake in all directions / What be nothing / Nothing you can measure any more! / The blizzard of the world has crossed the threshold and it has overturned the order of the soul." Cohen goes on to imagine the configuration of a culture based on privacy and individual freedom: "There'll be the breaking of the ancient western code / Your private life will suddenly explode! / There'll be phantoms / there'll be fires on the road."

Going further back, to 1968, we find Cohen sounding the psyche of terrorism with images that could serve as a profile of a suicide bomber: "I'm guided by a signal in the heavens / I'm guided by the birthmark on my skin / I'm guided by the beauty of our weapons. / Here we take Manhattan, then we take Berlin."

There's no great satisfaction in being a successful prophet of doom, and Cohen feels reluctant discussing it. "You can't rub people's faces in it," he says. And this Zen monk—known as Julian, the Silent One—believes "we're not running the show," so doesn't take any credit for originality. "You don't originate your own thoughts. As Einstein had the humility to say about his equations, these things come from outside. You respond to stimuli, things arise, and a second or two later you claim them."

Cohen's sense of the inevitable, however,

Music | Profile

doesn't mean he feels America deserved its tragedy, or that we should talk about it in terms of hubris. In fact, he's reluctant to talk about it at all, but when he does he's surprisingly unambivalent.

"It's not a comfortable putting America down or putting George Bush down," he says. "I hear people in Canada saying George Bush is stupid. Fine of me very seriously decide whether it's true. And this is not a time to depend on the clichés of the irresponsible—those who are not going to be called on to make any sacrifice. So yes, I think we should go back to America, get up our GIs, GIs and Nike shoes and gasoline. It's easy to embrace the ideas that Ozymandias—the Great—must fall. But we live in the Great and we benefit from the Great, and we drive our cars and wear our clothes and cherish our freedoms of movement and speech. An attack has been made on these institutions."

"In different circumstances," he says, "it's OK for Canadians to take a slightly superior attitude to America. But we all agree—even the capacity to create—all this stems under the umbrella of American willingness to defend both itself and its critics. So I don't think it's the appropriate mandate to bring over an anti-Americanism and parade it as some kind of insult on against events that could very easily have been directed against ourselves—and still might be. More than 5000 people have been wiped out. 30 years out, we haven't lost a single one. That's not a very good thing to brag about, because we live and they stare to die. But that is not the message. Please to disabuse, yes. But that's a clear energy and public disabuse: weaken us in their eyes. I think it says in the Bible: 'Do not stand idly by your brother's blood'."

It's jarring to hear Cohen speak so categorically. This is a man you imagine to be beyond the fray of global politics. I asked if the catalysts made them want to go back up the mountain. "I've always tried to operate on the fringe level of my own life," he said. "And as I've been able to explain, going up to Mount Baldy is not a retreat."



The monk they call the Silent One at the monastery on California's Mount Baldy

Life in the monastery was an engagement.
Coming back down was the return.

The material at the traffic-junction

There is no other way.

The what I am, and what I am

A Search for Stronger Stories

Distilled from those years of rabble-rousing, Cohen's new album is the most intimate of his career. Span, hypnotic and wise, it plays at a pailin of recollection: it's an aftermath album, finding beauty in the ruins of a life. And after Sept. 11, Cohen was in no mood to promote it. But his Montreal friend Nancy Southern, a theology student, encouraged him, at the belief that the album's ring is providential. "In a wounded world," she says, "these songs have to go out. They provide a spiritual consolation."

The album's tone is one of luxurious solitude. Like a Zen koan, *In My Secret Life* goes behind the lines of a heart that's "crowded and cold," and tries to warm the soul. By the River Dark plays a slow drip of narcotic confession from the depths of Babylon. And the album's max-

register is an ancient-mariner elegy on unrequited love called *A Thousand Kisses Deep*—a phrase that describes the oceanic ambience of Coltrane's voice throughout the record. Sinking through uncharted octaves, like a free-diver seeking a new record, he finds a register that is low, even for him, a sepulchral repose of the deep.

Then *New Song* may not be his swan song, but like Bob Dylan's *Time Out of Mind*, a word is doing the job nicely, as a coda for a brilliant career. It reminds us that, as one sounds remotely like Leonard Cohen. For 40 years, he's scored his own course, as a poeticist, a novelist, a filmmaker, as a cinematic essayist in a no-man's land between the sacred and the profane, a scorching domain of Greek islands, strange hotel rooms and menageries belted. He has published two novels, eight volumes of poetry and recorded 15 albums. His first novel, *The Favourite Game*, is now being filmed in Montreal 38 years after its publication. Still cool all these years, Cohen is the enduring bohemian. And he's achieved the elusive niche of celebrity, the land that doesn't get in the way—and let him walk one way between objects.

Cohen is Canada's most famous poet. He's also our answer to Dylan, a prophetic maverick with an unlikely voice and a self-made persona. Their styles are different as sand and glass, but both launched their careers on the tide of Sixties folk music. Now they're pioneering the curious new genre of "elder pop"—like Dylan, Cohen has found pop authenticity as a sage stepping down the white curtain of love and death. When Pierre Trudels was in the bar weeds of his life, the former prime minister found unobscured listening to some advance tracks from *The New Sages*; Cohen, a friend of Trudels, was an honorary politician at his funeral. And like Trudels, he is one of those actors

[illegible]

The Sanyo SCP-5000 with colour screen.
It was bound to attract attention.



POETRY Poetry is a verdict, not an occasion.
The poem is a dirty, bloody burning thing that has
to be gutted first with bare hands.



LOVE IN THE RAIN Raise a bowl of shelter now, though every friend is torn; / Give me to the end of love; / Give me to you. / Ready with a burning, holy; / Give me through the pain; / 'Till I'm safely gathered in. — *Modern Pious Hymns*, 132

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Producer Sharon Robinson wrote and played virtually all the music on the new album

Canadians who came out of a time when anything seemed possible.

*May everyone live.
And may everyone die.
Hello, my love.
And my love, goodbye.*

I was on vacation at a Laurentian lake when I got the call to interview Cohen in Montreal. I picked up a quart of raspberries at a farmer's stall on the highway, because...well, because some kind of offering felt appropriate. Cohen has always prized gentle acts of supplication, like Suzanne's tea and oranges that came all the way from China. And whenever a journalist shows up on his doorstep, Leonard is offering something. Lying out his photographer with chopped liver on toast at his house in Los Angeles. Offering a shower to a writer from *Sunday Night*.

His Montreal house is a century-old, three-story new house on a perfectly old Blvd. St-Laurent, not far from where the late Marianne Richler grew up. He bought it for just \$7,000 in 1972, and eventually bought the house next door, where he created a small Zen center. Inside, Cohen's home is plain and unrenovated. Bare white walls, a scattering of framed signs. I find him in a tiny courtyard at the back, potting for potatoes. In the sweltering heat, he looks uncharacteristically cool: striped pants, black shirt and matching suede slippers. Lying coffee on me, Cohen steps into

the small kitchen and keeps a Melitta filter to the brim with espresso. Perched on the stove is a little figurine of Catherine Tekakwitha, the 17th-century Mohawk saint from his novel *Beautiful Losers*. When I mention it, Leonard orders me into an adjoining bedroom, which is bigger than her above the sink. It's a bathroom you could spend nine or, with an old-fashioned tub, a chair and a Persian rug. "It was handy when the kids were growing up," he says, referring to Adam and Laura, his children with former partner Suzanne Ellrod (not the Suzanne of the song)—Adam, 29, is a singer-songwriter and actor; 27, owns an antique store; both live in Los Angeles.

In the kitchen, two publicists from his record company compose fruit flies. I add my raspberries, which Leonard sips to with reverence. And he opens up a wicker basket, so it contains a tomato, and, offhandedly—"they're two days old, but they're still good." Then, suggesting we talk upstairs "where it's quiet," he silently escorts a narrow staircase to his bedroom, coffee and cigarettes in hand. We sit at a large antique pine table by the open window. In the room there's a fold-up writing desk. A glass-fronted bookcase displays some Hebrew scrolls, and *The Essential Guide to Prescription Drugs*. In the corner, a white bed. Next to it, a washing bin and a small old TV and a box of Kleenex.

I ask Cohen why he came down from the mountains in 1999. "I don't know," he says, lighting a cigarette. "For the same rea-

son I went up, which is also unclear." He laughs, then explains he'd been associated with Mount Baldy's Zen community for 30 years and wanted to "intensity" his relationship with it, and with his Japanese teacher, Kyozen Joshiu Sasaki—or Roshī—who's now 94 "and in radiant health." For five years, Cohen followed a punishing regimen of rising before dawn to meditate for long hours, then he composed his poetry with creative misery.

"I found the meditation hall an excellent place to work on songs. I was supposed to be calibrating my mind or directing it to other areas, but I was working on rhymes for *A Thousand Kisses Deep*." One day Cohen—who also served as Roshī's cook, driver and occasional drinking buddy—confessed he wasn't really meditating. In his broken English, Roshī gave him his blessing: "Follow song OK."

Cohen is at a loss to explain where his depression went. "I'd used everything going," he says, "from self-medication to pharmaceuticals to all the excess that was available in rock 'n' roll. And nothing seemed to work. But I read that the brain cells associated with anxiety begin to die as you get older. I don't know if they're dead, but they're dying. The depression has lifted in the past three years, and that record comes out of this graceful event."

While *The New Stage* may be Cohen's most intimate album, it's also his most collaborative. He wrote the words, but his friend Sharon Robinson wrote, arranged, produced and performed virtually all the accompaniment on the record, as well as developing his rare dark voice with layers of her own ethereal vocals.

"My voice is very limited," says Cohen. "The four notes I can sing get lower and lower. I like it down there. It's close to speaking." It's a voice that sounds like incense. But aside from a couple tracks, the instrumentation is completely electronic—"dark factory music," as Cohen has described the sound he feels comfortable with. He doesn't like the noise to compete with the words. Even when he's raring with live musicians, he says, "you've got to keep hearing them back."

IRVING LAYTON Always after I tell him what I intend to do next/Layton solemnly inspires/Layton, are you sure you are/Doing the wrong thing? —"Layton's Question" (old 2003)



SUBVERSION Field Commander Calverley was our most important ally/Insisted in the line of duty/persuading acid into diplomatic cocktail parties/saving Peter Carter to abortion table and cauterize.

—New Skin for the Old Ceremony, 1973

On the new album, however, there is no band. And it has such a haunting intimacy it sounds like Cohen and his co-writer are singing with one mouth. "I feel it's really Sharon's record in a certain way," he says. "Her presence is very strong." Robinson also co-wrote *Everybody Knows* on his 1988 album, *In Her Mind*. And they'd been planning to write again together ever since. "Out of the blue," recalls Robinson, "Leonard said, 'I'd like you to work on a record with me and it would just take a couple of weeks.' It took two years."

In Los Angeles, Cohen and Robinson worked out of their home studio, swapping digital tracks back and forth. The third person in their musical ménage was Cohen's woman, engineer, Leslee Uggas. Because Cohen's studio is in his garage, which isn't soundproof, he had to get up very early to record his vocals—before the birds started to sing. "It was the same sort of regimen I fell up on the mountain," he says. "I was the cook. Leslee and Sharon would come around noon, and I'd make them lunch. We'd work all day, then I'd often prepare their dinner."

Robinson, who has married for 15 years, has known Cohen since 1979, when he recruited her to join his tour as a backup singer. He's also the godfather of her 12-year-old son. Asked if she and Leonard were ever involved, she declines comment, then, after a pause, she laughs. "I guess I just answered the question." When she was on tour with Cohen 20 years ago, women were constantly drawn to him, she says. "They would always be trying to get us to see him after the show, and there always seemed to be one—no, always, but frequently—who would end up spending the evening with him."

Cohen's mystique among women is legendary. They seem to like the fact that he worships them. I've interviewed the likes of Tom Cruise and Harrison Ford, but no one has elicited as much vicarious interest from my female friends as Leonard. Even my wife isn't safe, woeofly. "I only [d] sleep with Leonard Cohen," she wrote him a fan note in the late '60s. He replied from Manhattan's Chelsea Hotel, as people ink



Cohen's son, Adam, is a singer-songwriter; his daughter, Lacey, owns an antique store

on creosote paper with one sentence: "Thank you for your most perfect love."

A friend of mine once spent a night with him in Montreal around the same time. "I went back to his hotel," she says, "a Greek hotel where all the staff spoke Greek and everyone seemed to know him as if he'd lived there for years. In the morning, I awoke to find him already up and snoring this hot joint as if to escape. With one leg in and one leg out, he caught me watching and hurried to the bed to assure me it had been a great night, but that he had to leave because 'I'm a poet and I have to move on.' Later, in New York I met into quite a few girls who knew Leonard and claimed to be in constant contact by some sort of cosmic arrangement."

Ellen Schrago, the poet's editor at McClelland & Stewart, says, "Not all men are as good as Leonard is in making women feel that he's completely interested. He's not glib at all in a small-talk way. He always invites other people to talk. That is the secret thing of all." Schrago says that, phoning from another time zone, he would leave messages for her in the middle of the night:

"Could hear this incredible, husky voice, saying, 'Darling, I just have one more session.' I'd play it on the speedophone, and the women in the office would swoon."

Cohen's last visible romance, with actress Rebecca De Mornay, ended when he found he couldn't commit to settling down and having more children. Asked if he'd prefer to live the rest of his life alone or with someone, he says "I want to live with everyone. That's Boogie Street."

There is, in fact, an actual Boogie Street, he adds. "It's in Singapore. I don't know if it's still there." He stumbled across it years ago when coming home from an Australian tour. By day, he says, it was a house—he found a box of Leonard Cohen bootleg tapes on sale for a dollar apiece—"and at night it was a scene of intense and alarming sexual exchange. To me, Boogie Street is that sort of work and dream, the ordinary life, that is relieved by the embrace of your children or the kiss of your beloved, or the peak experience in which you yourself are dissolved. As my old teacher said, 'Paradise is a good place to visit but you can't live there because there are no toilets or restaurants.'"

For Leonard Norman Cohen, of Boogie Street, lead back to Montreal, where he was born in 1934, of two children in an affluent Westmount Jewish family. His father, who owned a clothing business, died when Leonard was 9. "Outside of that event, which seemed to be perfectly natural at the time," Cohen dismisses his childhood as "very ordinary." His says his teenage rebellion was limited to the "mild delinquency" of smoking and movies restricted to those over 16. "We'd dress in suits and ties and put Kleenex in our heels to make us look older." As a 17-year-old student at McGill University, Cohen formed a country-and-western trio called the Buckskin Boys, and began to publish poetry. Winning acclaim for *Let Us Compare Ourself* (1956) then *The Spice Box of Earth* (1961), he travelled to Europe on a grant and spent seven prolific years on the Greek island of Hydra.

Cohen came from the same generation of Jewish Montreal as Rachel, though from a more upper-crust. And like Rachel, he showed



THEY DIDN'T FORGIVE.
AND THEY SURE AS HELL
DIDN'T FORGET.

March, 1972. Seven Israeli Olympic swimmers were murdered by the Palestinian terrorist group Black September. Over the next 20 years Golda Meir and successive Israeli Prime Ministers sanctioned the systematic killing of 13 Palestinians presumably involved with the Munich killings. Was it vengeance, or a secret war targeting Palestinian leadership?

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PROPHET If you could see what's coming next, if you could read the hidden text, if you could get down on your knees and beg, if you could say, "Oh my God, I don't want to be here!" —From an unpublished version of *The Future*, 1992



AMERICA I'm sentimental, if you know what I mean, I love the country, but I can't stand the noise. And I'm neither left or right, I'm just staying home tonight, getting lost in that, hopeless little screen.

—The Police, 1992

Music | Profile

a silent as-a-comic novelist, casting a vision of himself as *The Favorite Guest* (1963), the persona of a Jewish poet carrying of age in Montreal. From the first love scene—of his hero undressing a girl and experiencing the “kind of surprise when the other paper comes off the triangle of Gynécée in one piece”—his gift for prose was obvious.

But unlike Richler, he didn't stay put. With the verbal acrobatics of his next and last novel, *Beautiful Losers* (1966), a profane list of acid-inspired delirium, Cohen cranked himself out of the literary fold and never looked back. He was recruited by Columbia's legendary John Hammond—who also discovered Dylan and Bruce Springsteen—and *Songs of Leonard Cohen* became the full-band sound track for 1968. Cohen would earn his place in the Canadian canon, but it could not contain him. As his longtime friend poet Irving Layton once said, “Leonard's always had yearnings for stardom.”

When I trace the notion of stardom with Cohen, he deadpans without missing a beat: “It's right down the line. There's the Governor General Award, the Pulitzer, the Fulbright, and then stardom.”

Cohen shows me a small bronze bust of Layton, who at age 89 was afflicted with Parkinson's disease. “I saw him when I was here for Trudka's funeral. It was one of his good days. But he generated not to recognize me. I said, ‘Hi Leonard!’ He said, ‘Leonard who?’ I said, ‘Leonard Cohen!’ He turned to his nurse and asked, ‘Which Leonard Cohen?’ I was completely taken in. Then he laughed—‘Leonard.’ Layton then talked about how his social desire had diminished with age. Cohen asked when that had begun to happen. “Oh, when I was about 15 or 16,” Layton replied. When I ask about his own famous libidinal Cohen persona: “It's a very unenviable landscape, very powerful.”

He doesn't spend much time in Montreal these days. He prefers to be close to his children in Los Angeles. And he is nicely anonymous there, an obscure unit in celebrity heaven. In Montreal, he is more easily recognized: “But it's not an inconvenience or a restriction,” he says. “A few days



Like Dylan, Cohen has found a new authority as a sage staring down the white towel

ago, I was walking down St. Lawrence Boulevard and stopped to look in this window. A young man beside me said, ‘Thanks, Leonard, have a nice evening.’ And much of it is on that level.”

To see him in his white room, in the house he bought for a song three decades ago, Leonard looks so completely at home. So I wonder:

“Where would you like to live?”

“Dead!”

“That's the word I was looking for.”

“In that bed would be nice,” he says, pointing to the soft whiteness in the corner of the room.

*The person next, the girl are young.
The odds are there is best.
You miss a whole, and there it's done—
Your little window crack
And someone's now to deal
With your miserable defect.
You live your life as if it real,
A Thousand Kisses Deep*

At his front door, Cohen steps out and looks around, as if dipping his toe into the city. I want to take some groceries back to the lake, so I ask if he knows a fish store in

the neighbourhood. There used to be one up the street, he says, then offers to take me there. As we cross the pulpit, he explains it once was Café Vallières but is now called Pan. Portugal. It occurs to me that one day it probably will be Café Leonard Cohen. We pass a handsome grey-haired woman who winks hello with outbreathing smile. Leonard smiles hello back.

“See what I mean?” he says.

“Do you know her?”

“No,” he replies, having confirmed his firm are cool enough to leave him in peace.

We find the fish store. Even on net, the address looks weird from the best. I deliberate for an awkward moment, wondering how I've ended up shopping for fish with Leonard Cohen. We head back without buying. Leonard talks about his plans to finish a book of some 250 poems, to record another album of his own music, to tour again—“I like singing and drinking”—and then to spend some time with friends in India. But he is cautious to add as he has learned to do when looking forward to the Future: “God willing.”

Read more of Leonard Cohen's collection with Leonard Cohen online. [View more stories](#)

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AGING My limbs are gone and my hair is grey/
who in the places where I used to play

—The New York Times



HOPE For what's left of our religion/I'll say grace and pray/Way the lights in The
Land of Plenty/Shine on the dark world day

—The New York Times

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Television

New kids on the block

Degrassi Street is back, and its young people are as engaging as ever

BY SHANDA BEZIEL

When a gang of 50 kids, including Spike, Smokey, Wheels, Lacey, Carlton and Joey Jeremiah, threw open the doors to *Degrassi Junior High* on Jan. 18, 1987, they brought more to television than just over-the-shoulders, bird hair styles and the snail "boonhead." The CBC's *Degrassi* was the first show to look at teenage issues strictly from the kids' point of view. Drinking, having a missing bus, teenage pregnancy and drug abuse were all handled in an intelligent and non-condescending manner.

By now, those subjects have been beaten to death on *Beverly Hills 90210*, *Party of Five*, *Dawson's Creek* and the like. Young audiences are bombarded every day with images of sex, alcohol and drugs. "Kids are a little more sophisticated than they were 13 years ago," says series co-creator Leslie Scharylet, who first launched the *Degrassi* franchise with *The Kids of Degrassi Street* in 1989. "They seem to know more, but that doesn't mean they have necessarily internalized it any better."

Scharylet will try to reach this new breed of teens with *Degrassi: The New Generation*, which premieres Oct. 14 on CTV. After two unsuccessful adult series, *Lois & Clark: New Adventures of Superman* and *Lois & Clark: The New Adventures of Superman*, Scharylet, a former junior-high teacher, is happy to be back in familiar teenage territory. He is wise of the original *Degrassi* performers, who will return for the series premiere—a one-hour reunion special in which they will pass the torch to a new group of seventh- and eighth-graders. "The new kids," says Amanda Stepien, who played teen queen Spike on the original, "have their heads together a little more than we did."

That wouldn't take much. None of the original 50 cast members in *Degrassi Junior High* were actors. They were kids playing a role, half being themselves. Off-screen they attended regular schools in Toronto, while coping with their newfound celebrity. "I remember I would be on the



Their ages range up, they look like adults, but they're not.

Television

bus and be terrified that I was sitting next to a 'CBC and You' poster," says Strain. Marygrove, who played the driven and popular Caitlin. "A couple of times, I would look up and I was sitting right underneath a picture of myself!"

After three years, the characters naturally moved into high school and the name of the show was changed to *Degrassi High*. The show became an international success, airing in 100 countries and picking up awards. But after five years of being on TV—the puberty and growing pains candidly documented—the students of *Degrassi* graduated in the two-hour 1992 movie *School Out*.

Over a decade later, the series lives on in cyberspace. Obscure fans post their own scripts, dissect Caitlin and Joey's relationship, fight over which twin is cooler, Heather or Emma—and track the whereabouts of each star. Some actors are eager to find their old friends. Pat Macdonald, who played the fedora- and Hawaiian shirt-wearing Joey, is now 29 and hosts *Miss World*, a variety show on the CBC. Macdonald also puts in time at his father's construction site and recently got married—he awarded *Degrassi* fans to attend his bachelor party.

In 1995, Macdonald took a role on *Zelig Street*—Schuyler's first series after *Degrassi*—and left for Los Angeles after it was cancelled two seasons later. In four years, he got one big break—a role in the 1998 blockbuster *Goofy*. But none of his faces ended up on the obituary room floor. "I realized that I could say done for another 10 years and not accomplish anything," he says, "so I could go home and get work."

Marygrove, 30, has been living in Los Angeles for almost six years working in independent movies and TV pilot. She came to realize her time on Canadian TV means nothing down there—except to director Kevin Smith (*Degrassi*, *Jay and Silent Bob Strike Back*). The New Jersey filmmaker, who became addicted to the show when it ran on PBS and later spent \$3,000 (U.S.) for the entire *Degrassi* archive, wanted her to star in *Matinee*, but the studio insisted on a bigger name. Coincidentally, the part went to Shannyn Doherty of *90210*—Marygrove was often called "the Canadian Doherty" because the two actresses played similar characters. "That's all right," laughs Marygrove, "he made her wear a *Degrassi* jacket throughout most of the film."

At least one original cast member hit the



East Coast after graduation. Anita Granatinsky, who played class valedictorian Lucy, went to New York University film school and has since written and directed three features—the last of which, *On the Run*, premiered at this year's Toronto film festival. She also stars in *Baranava*, a small film made by Setha Brogen, a fellow *Degrassi* alum.

Brogen, who will reprise his role as Skokie—now a teacher, Mr. Simpson—on the new *Degrassi*, and the money he made on the original series to attend the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in California. After five years and numerous TV and film credits in L.A., he moved back to Toronto. "By the time I got back, *Degrassi* had turned into this cult thing," says the 29-year-old. "To this day, I can't walk down the street without someone yelling our 'Skokie'."

Septo is well aware of the continued fascination. "I get these phone calls," she says, "usually at 4 in the morning from people who are drunk and a little giddy." After *Degrassi*, Septo got a degree in political science and worked at a clothing store. Now 31, she works as a human resources co-ordinator in a Toronto securities firm and is back playing Skokie on *Degrassi: New Generation*. Her daughter on the show, Emma, now wearing Grade 7, has followed her to Degrassi Community School.

Also hanging around the set is Shiloh Segway, Nick from the original. "I can like the camp counselor guy," says Segway, who was a children's co-ordinator for the new show. "I know exactly what they are

going through." For Segway is the first to recognize the differences this time around. Some of the 11 new cast members go to schools for the performing arts and already have acting careers; for them, *Degrassi* is just another gig on their resume. "I want to do *Degrassi* for as long as I can," says Minnie McDonald, 14, who plays Emma. "Then I want to take whatever acting jobs come my way, and if there is an opportunity to go to L.A. and pursue it in Hollywood, then that would be great."

These kids are sure in training and are treated as such. "They have dressing rooms, makeup, wardrobe, a studio," says Marygrove. "We never had that stuff. We had to do our own dishes." Despite the new cast's perfect skin and ability to talk in sound bites, on-screen they possess the same magical quality of their 1980s predecessors—vulnerability. One actor in particular, Shane Kippel, who plays the bully Spence, exudes a sense of innocence both on camera and off. "Sometimes I still don't believe it," says Kippel, 15, one of the few cast members with no prior experience. "I go to a regular public school, and this is a really big thing. Some people work their whole life and never get a chance like this."

Schuyler agrees—"I consider it a tremendous honor to go into people's homes once a week and tell their story." And she's excited about adding 21st-century newbies to the *Degrassi* formula. Cyberstalkers and Italian are covered in the new series, as well as updated parenting techniques. When two kids get caught surfing Web porn sites, they're forced to discuss the objectification of women while looking at female and male X-rated sites with their parents.

Like adolescent life, each episode is packed with humor and pain—and the lessons go down easy. *Degrassi: The New Generation* is one of the year's best new shows. But after years of risk and very real drama, will there be an audience for the rellians found in the hallowed halls of *Degrassi*? If there is, and the show does as well as the original, Schuyler will be more prepared this time. "We never thought of it before, but maybe we should have introduced new characters each season, as the Grade 7s moved into Grade 8 and the Grade 8s moved into Grade 9. It is something we'll definitely talk about for next year." Whether or not that happens, it seems *Degrassi* will live on forever. ■



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Circus of the imagination

A festival of creative genius fetes a former busker

Twenty-five years ago, a long-haired teenage busker was playing the accordion and moulting fire in the cities and towns of his native Quebec. Then one day, Guy Laliberté had an idea for a new kind of circus that would do entirely without animals. Tridacensia scaffold, both *Les Cirque du Soleil* celebrates six million people annually on four continents. Last week, a building Laliberté stood on a Toronto stage in designer leather jeans and a T-shirt as 700 people gave him a standing ovation. Many of them had forked out \$175 (dinner included) for a chance to pay tribute to one of the most extraordinary Canadians in entertainment history. Bowing, waving, balancing a yellow cone on his chin, the former street performer, now 42, certainly seemed to be enjoying himself.

Laliberté's appearance marked the launch of *World Leaders: A Festival of Creative Genius*, mounted by Toronto's

Harbourfront Centre, the festival is a groundbreaking event in its own right—an ambitious celebration of the lives and work of 14 of the most important artists in the world today. Like Laliberté, all the honorees receive a \$25,000 award and a sculpture, as well as a tribute featuring everything from video displays of their work to live performances and interviews. One guest, Japanese fashion designer Issey Miyake (Nov. 6), will show off his latest creations in the presence of one of his most enthusiastic collectors, Gos. Gen. Adeline Carlson.

Other "leaders" include Toronto-born architect Frank Gehry (Oct. 5) and Saskatchewan's Joni Mitchell (Oct. 19), as well as comedian Lily Tomlin (Oct. 9), composer Stephen Sondheim (Oct. 11), film director Bernardo Bertolucci (Oct. 15) and playwright-actor Harold Pinter (Oct. 17). "These are some of the most transforma-

tional artists of our time," says Harbourfront CEO Bill Boyle. "They've re-born their disciplines."

Boyle and Toronto design pundit Bruce Mau created the festival partly as a way to draw attention to the work of Harbourfront, which for 27 years has offered Canadians an incomparable view of domestic and world culture, with a steady influx of writers, musicians, dancers, theatre artists, painters and sculptors. Financially underfunded by government, Harbourfront got corporations to pony up more than half of the event's \$2-million budget (public funds and box office will cover the rest). Boyle sees the festival as a cross-disciplinary feast that showcases Harbourfront's depth, while celebrating the ongoing creativity of its guests. "We don't want this festival to smother a lifetime achievement award. We want this to be an exploration of the creative process. In fact, all these artists are still incredibly active. None of them want to talk about their past."

Still, the past is imperative, so the audience for the Laliberté evening was bombarded with images from four suspended video screens: carnes of the clowns and acrobats who over the years have revolutionized our idea of what a circus is with fluid, highly choreographed acts that owe as much to theatre as to the big top. There was live entertainment, too, the most vivid moments coming from Cirque juggler Vito Koz. Chad in a see-through body suit, he kept seven balls on the go while simultaneously moving with a quiescent mysticism that seemed superhuman.

Despite such delights, a surprising anti-transiency often held sway. Former Olympic synchronized swimmer Sylvia Fédiche (a contributor to *Q*, Cirque's Las Vegas-based aquatic show) played host, awkwardly reading from a prepared script. Her interview with Laliberté was a bust: the best he could extract from him were a few thin anecdotes and some clichés about reconnecting to the wonder of childhood. So much for the festival's promised insights into the creative process. True for Laliberté hanging in the air, perhaps a bit too heavily, as the audience was consistently reminded by the video screens and music speakers what a marvel he is. All true enough, no doubt, but wearying after two hours. By forcing its message, the opening night of the festival of genius undermined opportunity with propaganda, a piffle any true creator would avoid.

John Benvenuto

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Cirque du Soleil founder Laliberté began as a fire-breathing accordionist

Honour Roll 2001

A CALL FOR NOMINATIONS



This December, Maclean's 16th annual Honour Roll will present 12 profiles of Canadians who have made a difference to the nation. This special report will appear in the December 26th issue, on newsstands the week of December 17th.

Know any local heroes in your community?

Readers are invited to submit nominations with testimonials of 50 words or less. To be considered, candidates must be Canadian citizens who have made a significant contribution to the life of the nation in 2001.

Maclean's editors seek people from a wide variety of fields, famous or not, with only one exception: those engaged professionally in politics.

Submissions should be sent to:
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Entertainment Notes

This land was their land

"From Bonaville to Vancouver Island, from the Arctic Circle to the Great Lakes waters..." For countless Canadians, these words conjure up both a familiar melody and a patriotic heartbeat. But how many can recall the group that introduced them to the Canuck adaptation of *This Land Is Your Land*, Weedie Gubrick's popular celebration of Ansenka, propelling the northern version to unofficial national anthem status some 40 years ago? The 90-minute documentary *The Travelers: This Land Is Your Land* (History Television, Oct. 10, 9 p.m., Oct. 12, 7 a.m.), reassures this folkloric treasure from obscurity, shining out an interesting footnote in the country's history.



The Travelers helped shape our cultural landscape

Modelled after the Weavers—Pete Seeger's American folk band, which was blacklisted during the McCarthy era—the Travelers were affiliated with the far left. Its members—Jerry Gray, Sid Dalgay, Jerry Goodin and Samson Johnson—met in the early 1950s at Camp Nawick, a cultural retreat near Bensington, Ont., then met by the pro-communist United Jewish People's Order. Appearing first at union halls and on picket lines, the group made its professional debut on CBC's *Play the Stars* in 1956.

The documentary—whose minimal use of captions providing names and dates is sometimes frustrating—makes a strong

case for the Travelers' pioneering contribution to Canada's cultural landscape. Director Rob Cohen adds intrigue by skillfully capturing the continuing tensions among the group members, both personal and political. Each of the Travelers speaks with a refreshing frankness, whether reflecting on their 1962 ouster of the Soviet Union or the original quartet's eventual breakup (only Gray remains in the still-cohesive group). "There are bad moments for all of us," says Johnson, who agreed only reluctantly to be interviewed for the documentary. But, she adds, "it's a very honest portrait."

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Best-Sellers

Picture	Copies
1. THE TRAVELERS, <i>Canadian Folk Music</i> (C)	7
2. THE TRAVELERS, <i>Seven Years (C)</i>	1
3. THE TRAVELERS, <i>Canadian Folk Music (C)</i>	1
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Allan Fotheringham

Death of a true radical

What's the old rule—never speak ill of the dead? Surprising it is how people think that an out-moded voice, something they are proud to defy and the quieter the better.

Doug Collins, the toughest man I ever met, died last week in Vancouver at 81. Before his body could even be moved to the grave, the *Vancouver Sun*—his old paper he once adorned with fiery passion—had a noisy, anachronistic editorial churning on the corpse that was still warm. Even when Mr. Collins was right, he was wrong, because all he did with his belated approach was state the uncontroverted anger of his supporters.

That is a most admirable logical leap, even for an editorial writer. Black is white. Right is actually wrong. Orwell would love it. It was a constant theme—over Central Black admitted it didn't make sense in regard to Collins—among the Politically Correct who decorated the final days of a complex guy whose whole life was about fighting for the freedom to say something that other people thought was wrong.

That Collins was a complex character would be an understatement. I once, having hired him while he was in a bad patch, did not speak to him for 10 years. Until I figured the bristles, the new Politically Correct who now ruled the roost, were the most intolerant of all, those who could not abide a true radical who listened only to his own inner drum and didn't give a damn for those who disagreed. He had been through a mill that his opponents could never imagine.

The guy who looked like the maddest version of the British bulldog, as remembered in all the obits for being pursued by the Politically Correctness NDP (Inc) government of British Columbia for his supposedly Nazi-like thoughts about Jews. At his death, he was still hoping to overturn a \$2,000 penalty handed him by the B.C. Human Rights Tribunal.

The background? Fun, in May of 1940, the "miracle of Dunkirk," somehow, with the help of English army boats, getting more than 300,000 troops off that beach in France and saving the life of the British army that would invade Normandy four years later. Among those left behind on the beach was the teenage Doug Collins of the Second Gloucesters. As a prisoner of war, he was shipped off to a concentration camp in Poland, where he was instructed he would



remain until the end of the war. Four months later, he escaped, headed for Russia. Caught, he was stripped naked to stand for 24 hours facing a wall, beaten by angry guards. It was his 20th birthday. He was sent to work in a Siberian coal mine. He escaped, was sent to two different camps, escaped and passed by a camp later known as Auschwitz. In all, he escaped from 10 Nazi POW camps, well recorded in his memoir published in 1968.

At the end of the war, he was in prison in Romania, an American B-24s mined bombs on him, actually wiring at the Moscow offices. After the war, being awarded a military medal, he spent time with the

De-Nazification branch of the British Central Commission. This is a guy who sides with Nazis against Jews? Arriving at the Vancouver Sun, he was a ferocious left-wing British Labourite, standing up to editors with a penknife that indicated they had never seen anyone with his guts. In a fight over principle, as usual, he left to become a ferocious home-interviewer with the CBC in Ottawa. The usual dispute arose then, he asked my help in rescuing "abstained-down back" and I convinced the publisher of the *Sun* to refuse him. Alas, the experience with CBC bureaucracy had turned the passionate lefty into an even more passionate, perceived "right-winger" who defied anyone who wanted to say anything.

Having been there, he thought the Holocaust figure of "six million dead" an exaggeration. Thus, he felt *Schindler's List* should be called *Swindler's List*—the same defiant tone of one who once stood on a German prison train screaming insults at passing Nazi troops, a crazy guy perhaps, but always defiant. The *Riverside Jewish Bulletin* backed his right to say what he thought—even though they felt it "ridiculous."

The *North Shore News*, a choice-weekly Vancouver suburban paper, ran Collins' increasingly controversial column for 14 years after he left the *Sun*—and before firing him. Canadian Association for Free Expression director Paul Fromm asked Central Black, who once owned the paper, why his company was not supporting Collins' column appeal. Replied Black: "We considered the [human rights tribunal] ruling a suppression of speech. However, Collins is a rather despicable person. It's a moral puzzle."

It is indeed. Right is wrong. Black is white. That's why he was sacked.



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